BAKEMONOGATARI
20
OH!GREAT
ORIGINAL STORY:
NISIOISIN
ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN

120
CAPTURE
987
CRR
JAW
87

BAKEMONOGATARI
20

BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

ORIGINAL STORY:

NISIOISIN

ORIGINAL CHARACTER DESIGN: VOFAN

20

Shinobu Oshino
A husk of a vampire who was once called the "king of aberrations." She had run away from home but has been found.
Koyomi Araragi
A boy and a "mockery of a vampire." He has become entangled in an issue involving Shinobu while tirelessly rushing to Hanekawa's aid.
Seishiro Shishirui
Koyomi's "elder brother" as a thrall, who holds the title of "The First Aberration Slayer." He seeks out Shinobu and sees Koyomi as a nuisance.
Suruga Kanbaru
Koyomi's junior, who once made a wish to a monkey before being saved by him. She helps Koyomi find Shinobu and eventually makes her way to her.
Tsubasa Hanekawa
Koyomi's classmate who has been bewitched by a cat. She fights her past self in order to move forward.
Mèmè Oshino
A self-described expert on aberrations. Now temporarily based out of the town of Naoetsu, he often agrees to speak with people about their problems with aberrations.
Black Hanekawa
The aberration known as an Afflicting Cat, or *sawarineko*, which has manifested in Hanekawa.
MAIN CHARACTERS

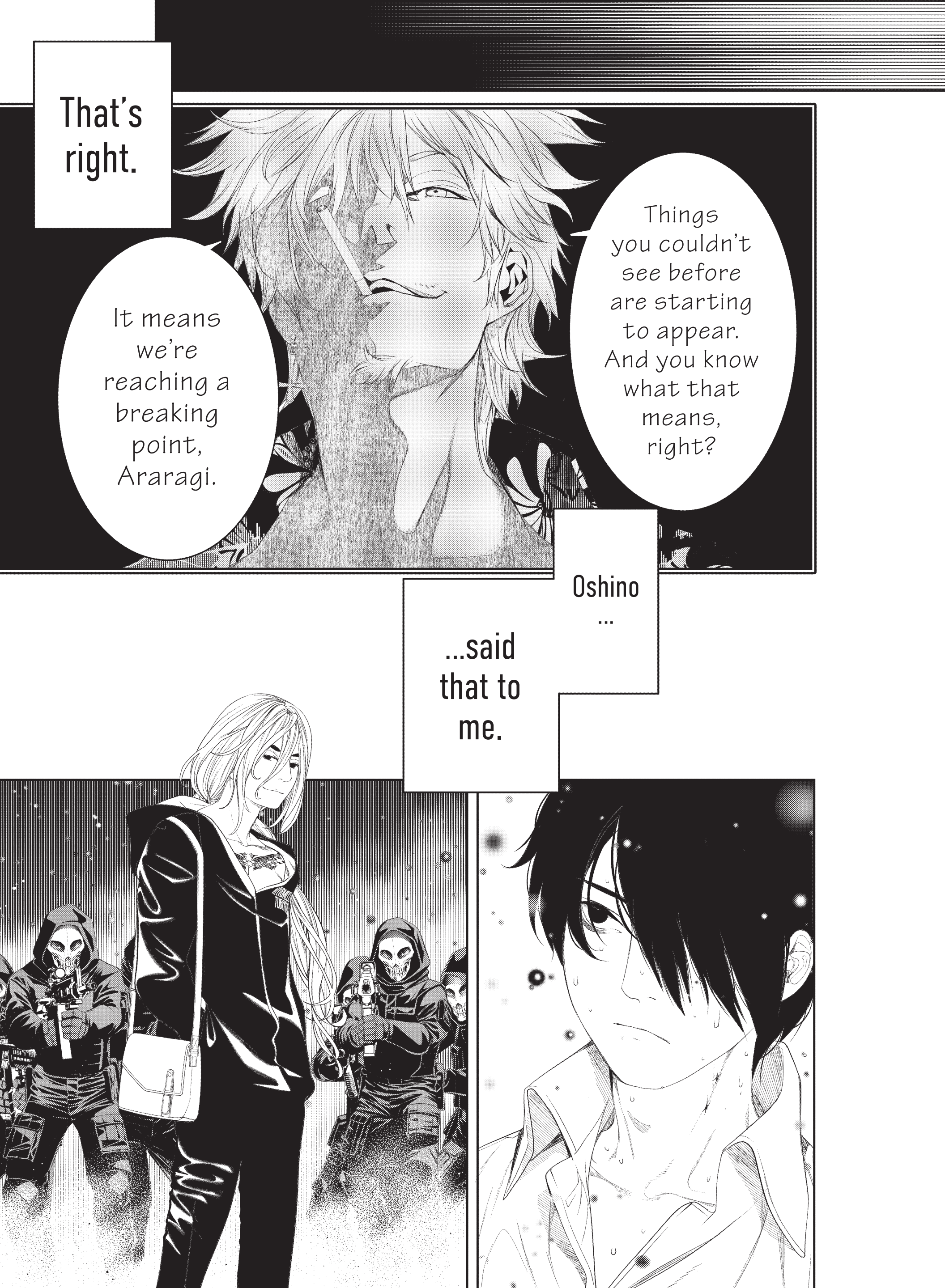
THE STORY SO FAR

The Afflicting Cat reveals itself once again. This time, it comes into contact with Koyomi, bearing one goal in mind: to become consumed by Shinobu, who had been hiding in Koyomi's shadow all along. However, the weight of Hanekawa's cumulative past is simply too much and breaks free from her, causing the plan to end in failure. What's more, Kiss-Shot's "first thrall," Seishiro Shishirui, also appears on the scene, dialing the chaos up to eleven as he seeks to take Koyomi's life and have Shinobu for himself!

Chapter 5: Tsubasa Cat

I...!

If you ...!
If you feel like recipro-cating his feelings,
that means you just need to live with him for the rest of eternity.
Even if an "ending" like that...
...would mean betraying my senior Araragi.
Even then.

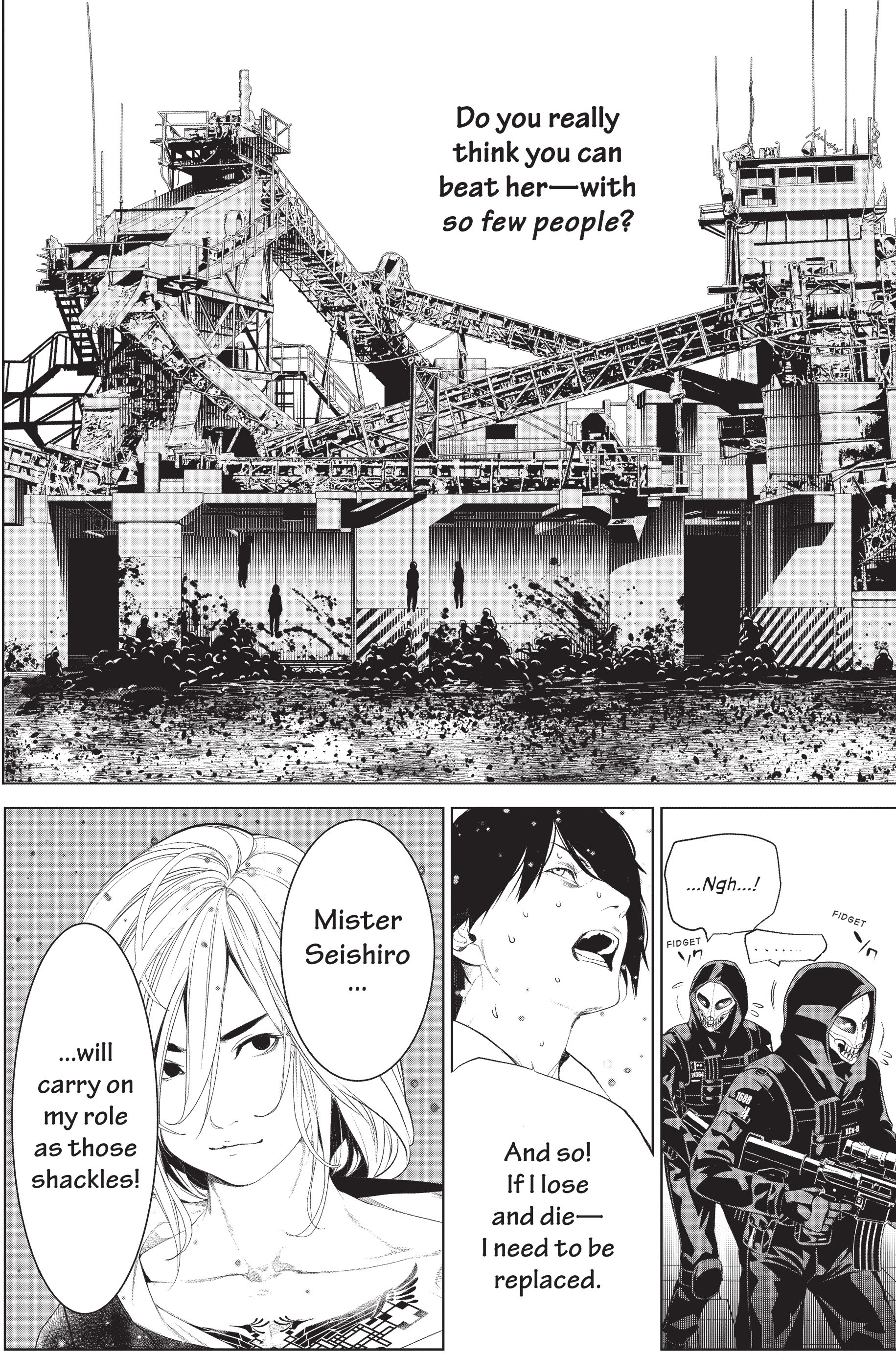

That's right.
Things you couldn't see before are starting to appear. And you know what that means, right?
It means we're reaching a breaking point, Araragi.
Oshino...
...said that to me.

Mister Dramaturgy. Episode.
Would you please—promise me one thing?
A promise?
Hm.
HEY, ASSHOLE! WHY NO "MISTER" FOR ME?!
DON'T MAKE ME KILL YOU!
Mister Seishiro and I...
...are about to fight to the death.

If he wins—
I want you to transfer my status as "recognized as harmless" to him.
I've...
...known all along.
Like I said earlier...
...I owe a debt of gratitude to him.
I know why he decided to take a risk...
...and reveal himself to me.
無害認定
Recognized as Harmless
Gotta love it. Do you think your "recognized as harmless" is like a dick or something?
WAIT, CAN YOU TRANSFER THOSE TO OTHER PEOPLE?!

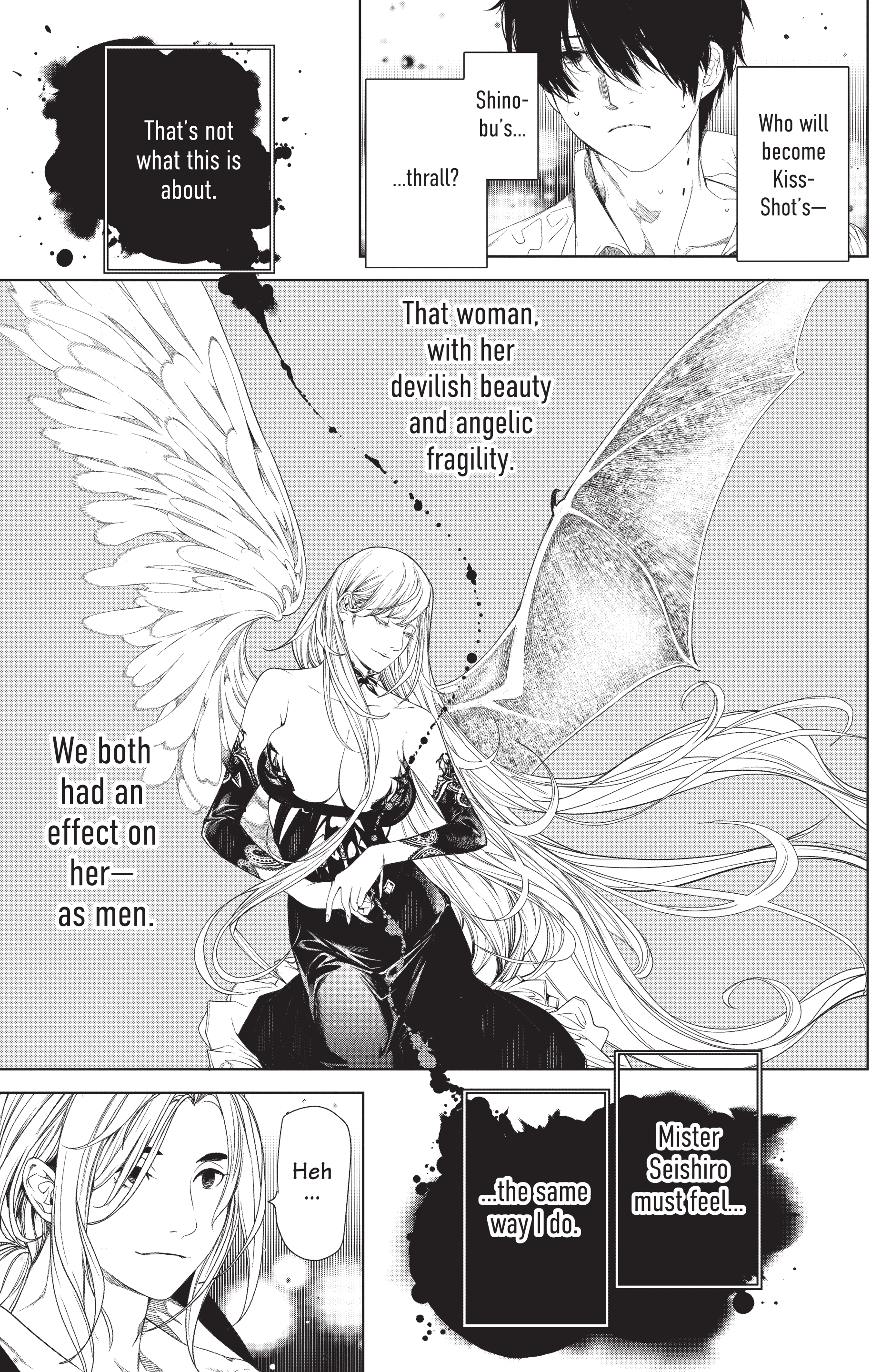
Mister Seishiro told me—to break up with Kiss-Shot.
He came to tell me to switch with him.
In other words—he wants the position I'm now in... Neither vampire nor human.
A plain, harmless mockery of a human.
A mockery of a vampire. That's all.
And it...
...*has to be that way*.

I am her shackles. Without me...
...the most vicious of vampires will be released once more.
The true and genuine king of aberrations...
...Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade will return.
I doubt that Kiss-Shot has forgotten...
...what you did to her just a few months ago.
The way you tore off all four of her limbs—and subjected her to the humiliation of crawling along the ground like a caterpillar to make her unsightly escape...


Do you really think you can beat her—with so few people?
...Ngh...!
FIDGET
FIDGET
......
And so! If I lose and die— I need to be replaced.
Mister Seishiro ...
...will carry on my role as those shackles!

HUSH
FW-A5
GY-00
TCH!
That...piece of shit!
Ha hah—
I considered him a talented young man, but—his ability to negotiate—it's almost as if...

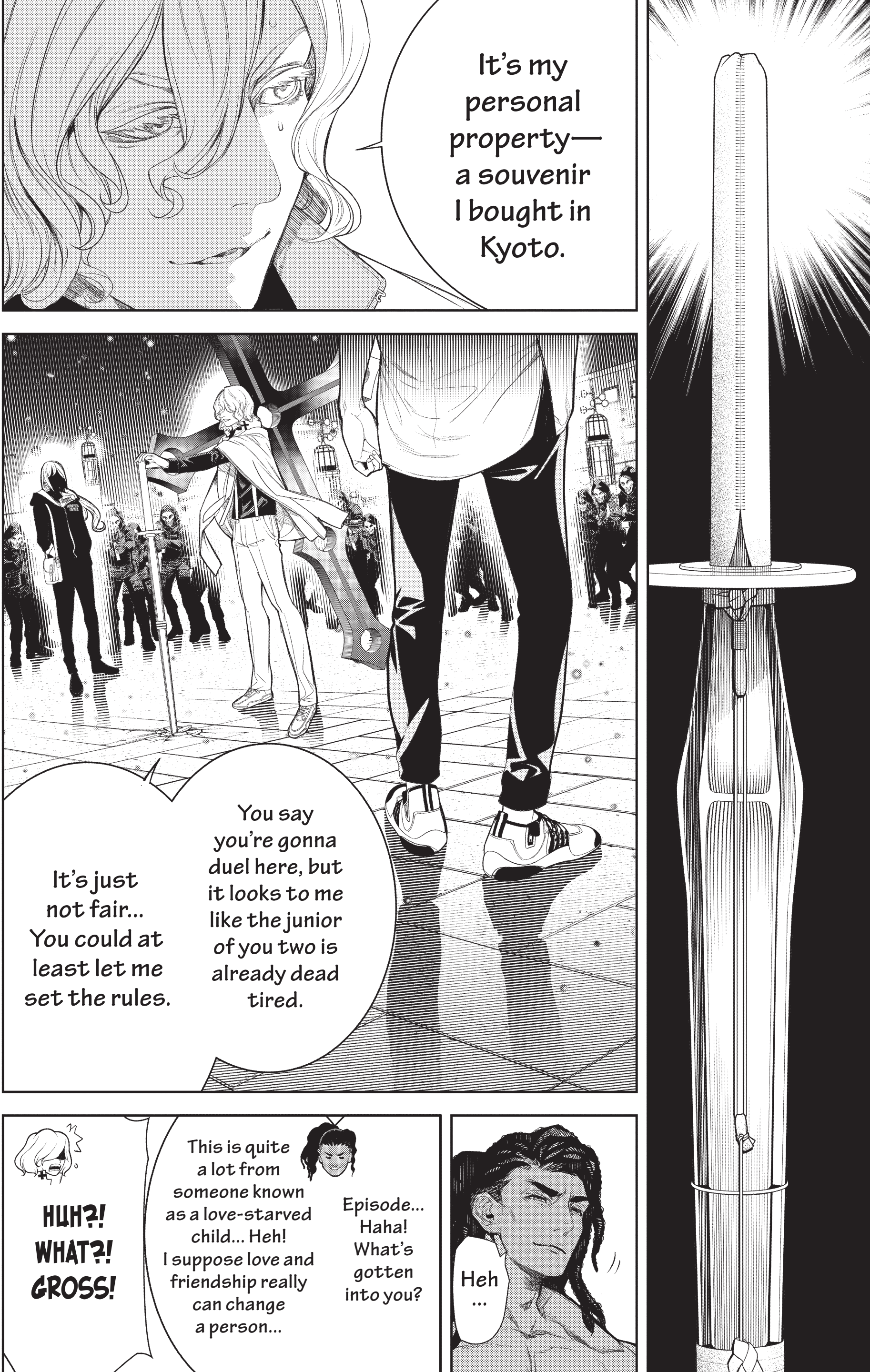
One vampire ceases to exist.
Another is made harmless.
And the legendary vampire continues to be sealed away.
Sounds like the kind of outcome that'd also work well for you guys, right?
As if...
...he's *that* man!



Who will become Kiss-Shot's—
Shinobu's...
...thrall?
That's not what this is about.
That woman, with her devilish beauty and angelic fragility.
We both had an effect on her— as men.
Mister Seishiro must feel...
...the same way I do.
Heh...

Just as the short three months of hell ...
...that began with spring break will end today...
...someone needs to bring...
...Shinobu's five hundred years of hell to an end today.

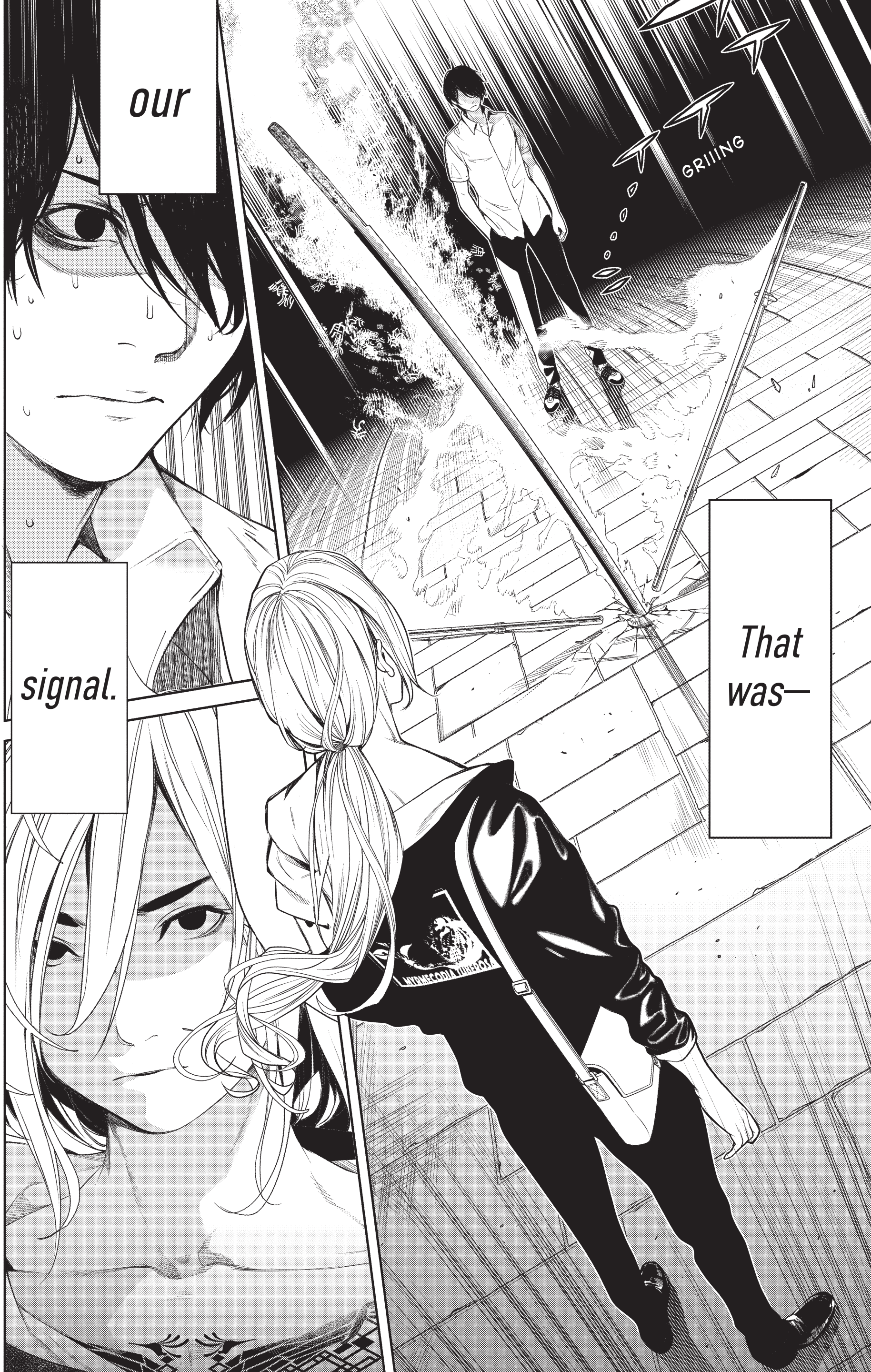
KEH HEH
Gotta love it.
True, there's no downside for us... There's nothing but upside in what you're saying.
But if we were to just say, "Oh sure, okay," and slink away here...
...THAT'D MAKE US LOOK LIKE A COMPLETE BUNCHA DUMB-ASSES!
THWAK
KRAKL


It's my personal property—a souvenir I bought in Kyoto.
You say you're gonna duel here, but it looks to me like the junior of you two is already dead tired.
It's just not fair... You could at least let me set the rules.
Heh ...
Episode... Haha! What's gotten into you?
This is quite a lot from someone known as a love-starved child... Heh! I suppose love and friendship really can change a person...
HUH?! WHAT?! GROSS!

When I say go, you two fight over this bamboo sword.
Once somebody has it, a single touch with it is all you need to win.
一本勝負
A one-point match.
I don't care how ridiculously strong you two assholes are, none of you are gonna die from some bamboo, right?
Which is why I'll kill the loser.
You'll settle things here.
Then we'll do our job and leave.
That way, all three of us get a nice, happy ending.

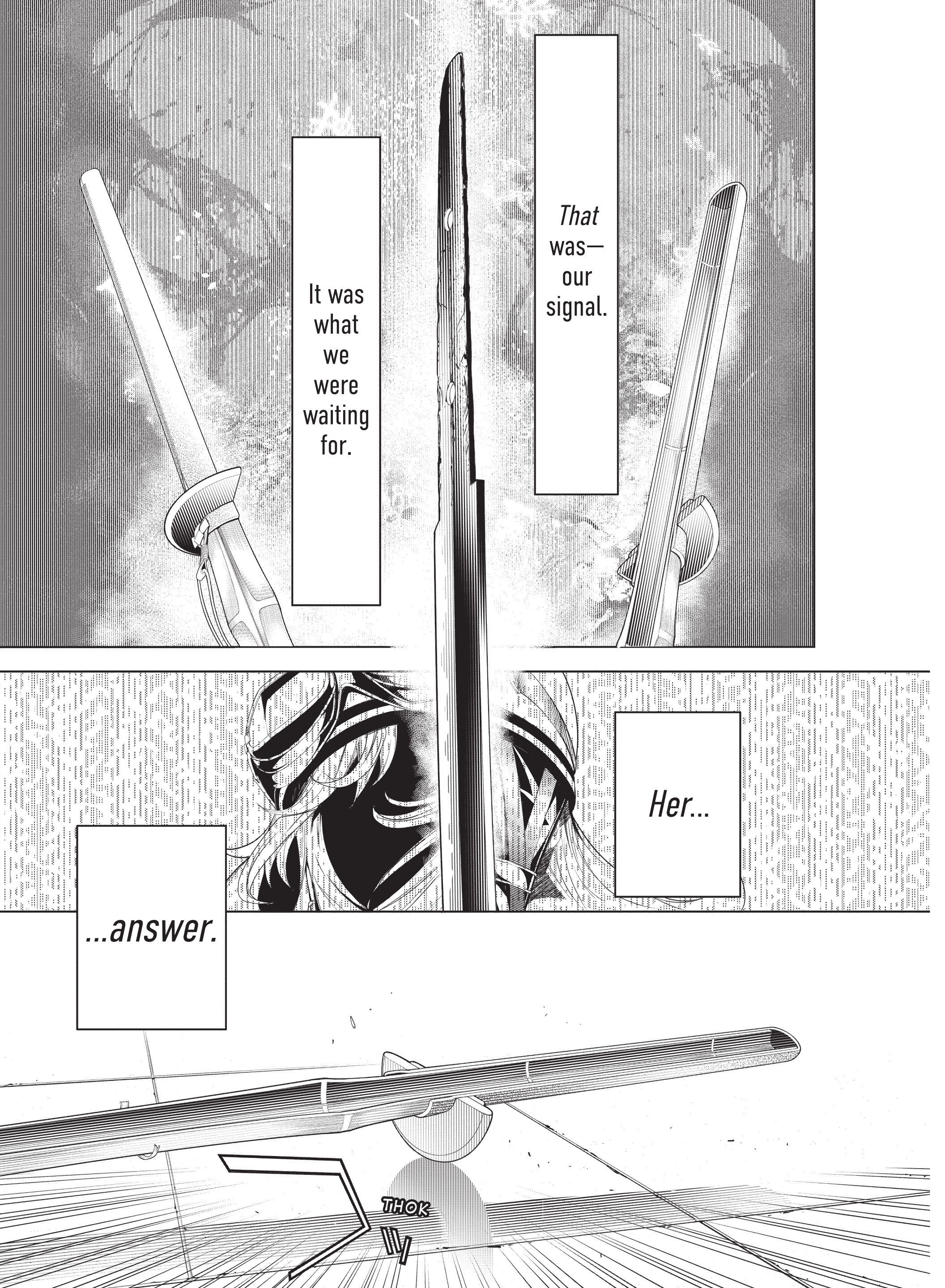
KRAK
MYRMECODIA TUBEROSA
I've no objections.
What of thee, Koyomi?
GRKK
Not a problem.

Very well, then.
CHKK
If you'll allow me the liberty of firing the signal to start...
GLIMMER
...Huh?
!!
THNK

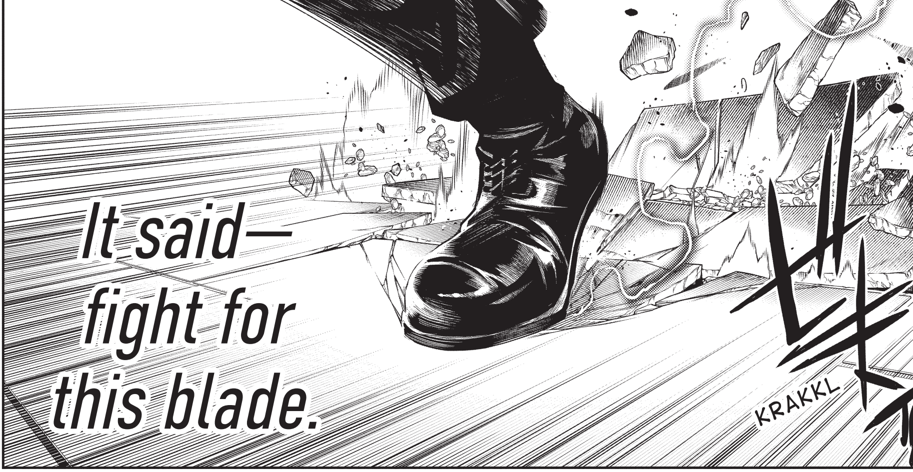

GRIIING
That was—
our
signal.

KLINK
KLINK
KLINK
KLINK
KLINK

CAUTION
VAMPIRE
ALERT
吸血鬼注意
BAKEMONOGATARI 20

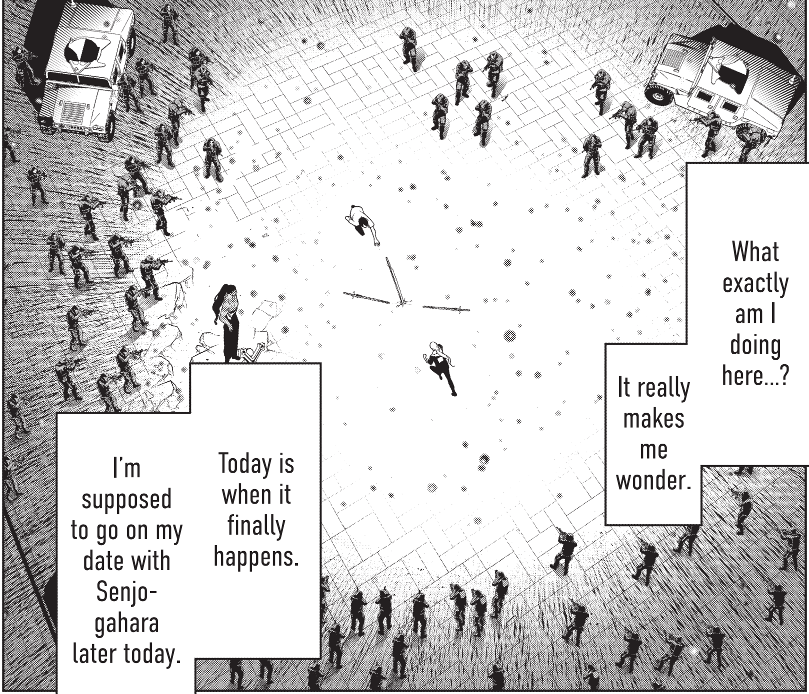


That was—our signal.
It was what we were waiting for.
Her...
...answer.
THOK

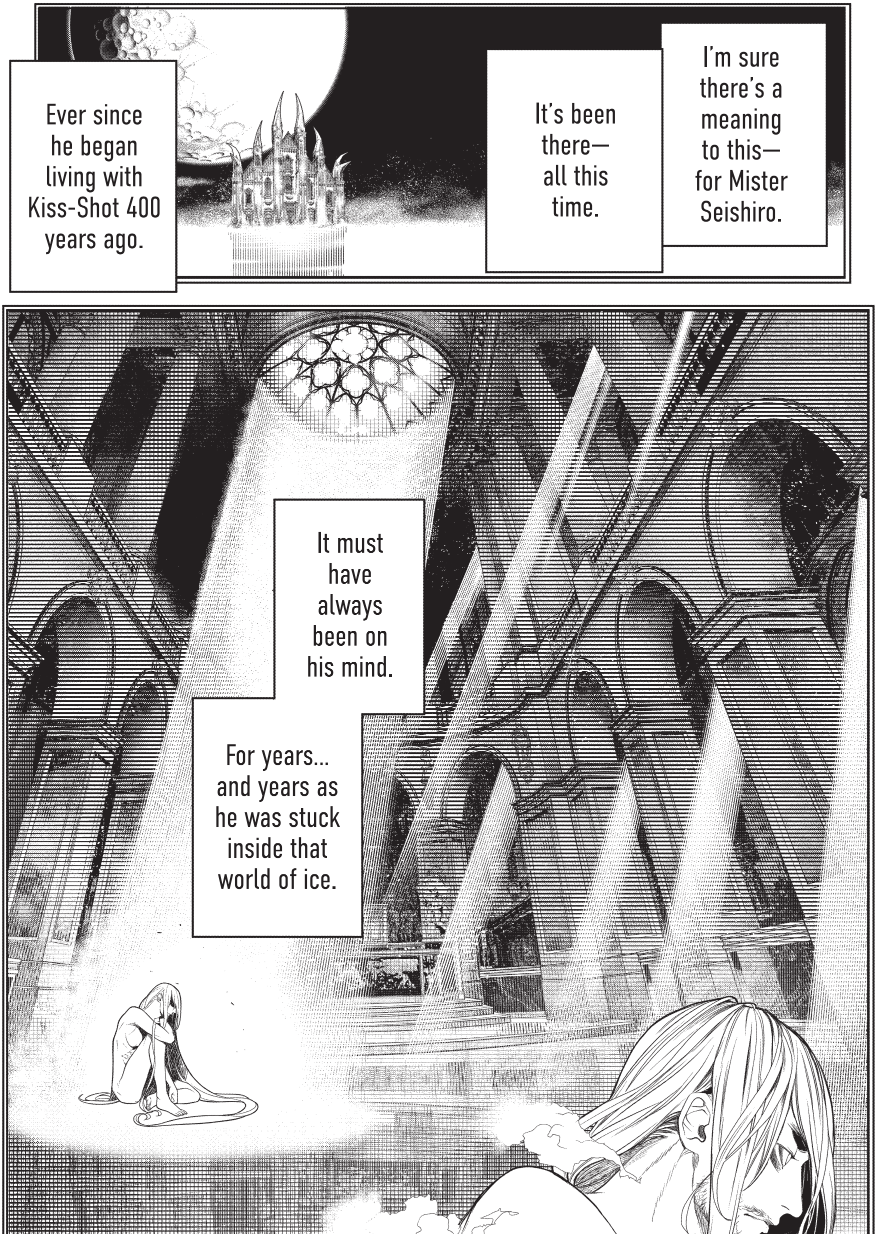

It said—
fight for
this blade.
KRAKKL

BOOM

SKRRK
Win it.
And win me.
SLIP
STUMBLE
AGH ...!
!!
C'mon, you idiot! What the hell are you do-ing, you stupid little punk?!
A slow start.



What exactly is the meaning of this duel?

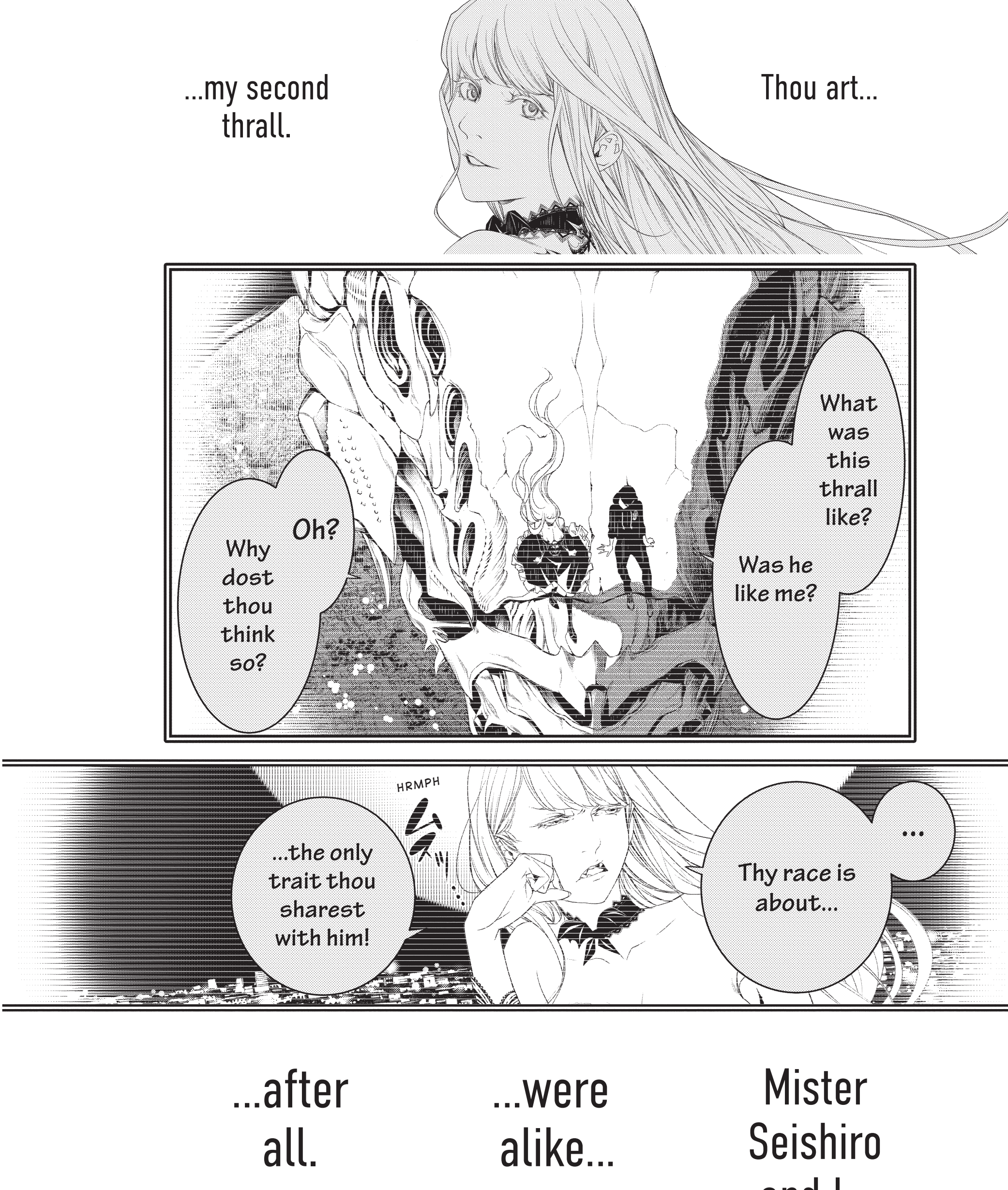

I'm sure there's a meaning to this—for Mister Seishiro.
It's been there—all this time.
Ever since he began living with Kiss-Shot 400 years ago.
It must have always been on his mind.
For years... and years as he was stuck inside that world of ice.

BOOM
Never eating a human.
CHOMP
CHOMP
RIP
RIP
GRIND
Always eating Kiss-Shot—and nobody else.
CHOMP
CHOMP
POWKK
KLATTER
I under-stand what that was.
GSSHRK
GSSHRK
GSSHRK
TWITCH
TWITCH
It wasn't for his survival.

SZZZZ
Through his body...
...he would take that flesh and blood...
...and concentrate it—into a single blade.
Which is why that sword, something that should destroy any aberration with a single touch...
...does not cut Kiss-Shot.
Because this sword—the enchanted blade Kokoro-watari—
is *Kiss-Shot herself.*

This is what Mister Seishiro arrived at—his answer.
He wanted Kiss-Shot—to live.

Regardless of what she may come to think of him.
Regard-less—of the shape that took.



Thou art...
...my second thrall.
What was this thrall like?
Was he like me?
Oh?
Why dost thou think so?
...
Thy race is about...
HRMPH
...the only trait thou sharest with him!
Mister Seishiro and I...
...were alike...
...after all.

...
Ha!
Ha! Hahahahaha!!
Hahaha-
hahahahahahaha!

For Kiss-Shot.
For Shinobu.
What would be the happiest outcome for her?
I don't know the answer.
I doubt Mister Seishiro does either.
No, even Shinobu herself...
...must not know.
And so...
...I felt like giving it a try.
CHKK
One of these duel things.

Ha!
Ha ha!
Ha!
Hahaha!
Ha ha ha ha ha!!
Kiss-Sho-ooo-ooo-oot!

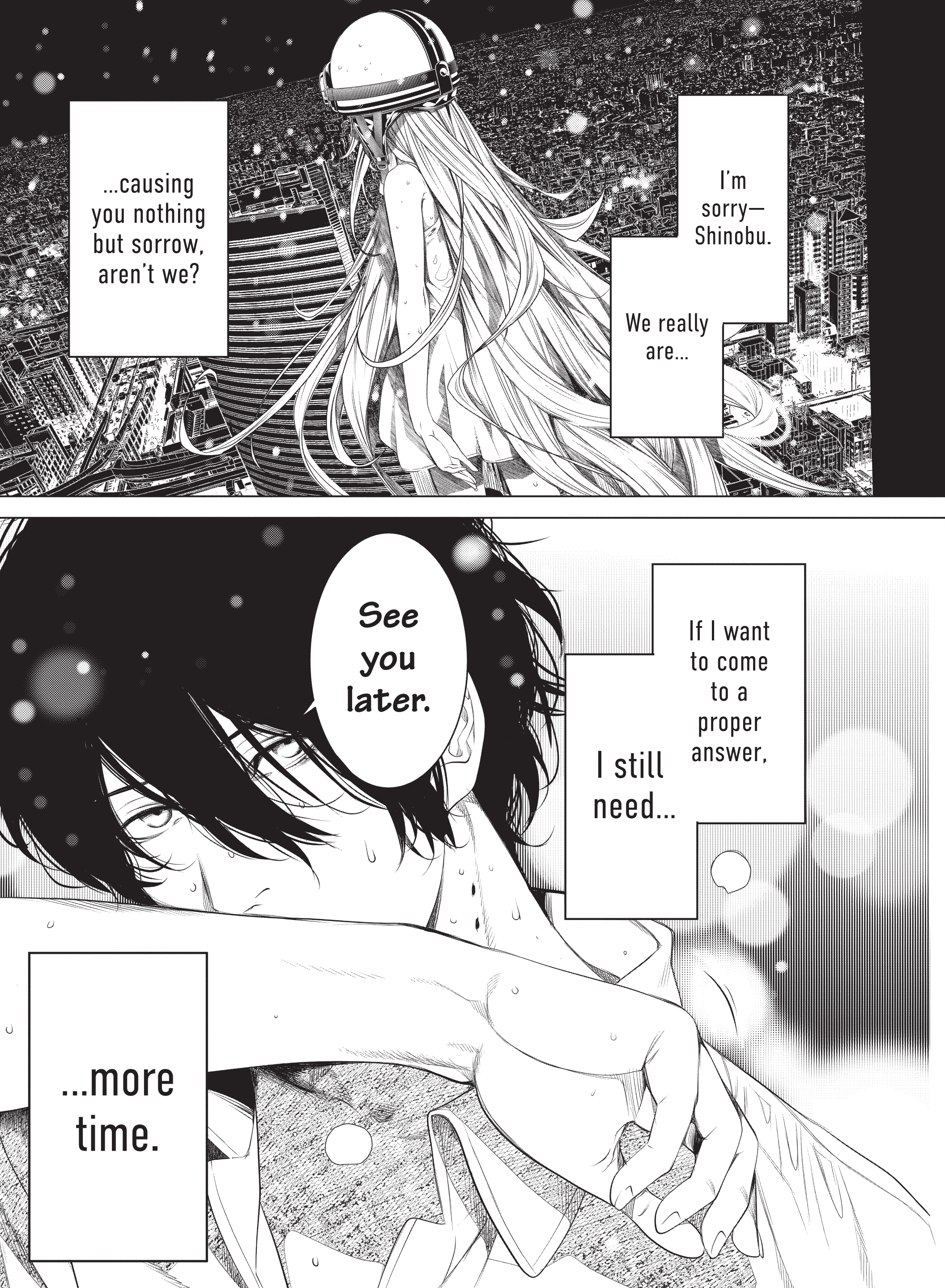
I have ... ...been chosen !!!

oooo
ooo
I have!
Ha ha!
Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!

Ha!
THWAP

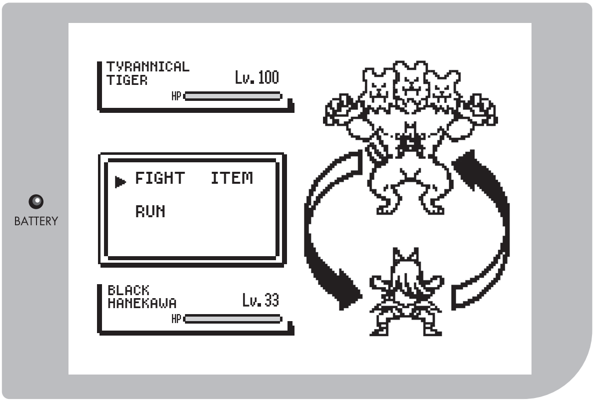
...
Ha...
Ha ha...
Huh?
... ...!
This...
...amulet!

That slip... was no accident. I did it on purpose.
Because if you took the sword first...
...I knew...
...you would *do what you just did*—and attack me while leaving yourself wide open.
We...
...do not yield to others.
不死の習性
A habit of the immortal
Haah... Wh...Why... Hrrk... Is...!
Yuh ...!
This amulet...
Hrrk!
Hnnh!
Why is it... here...?
Fnngh !

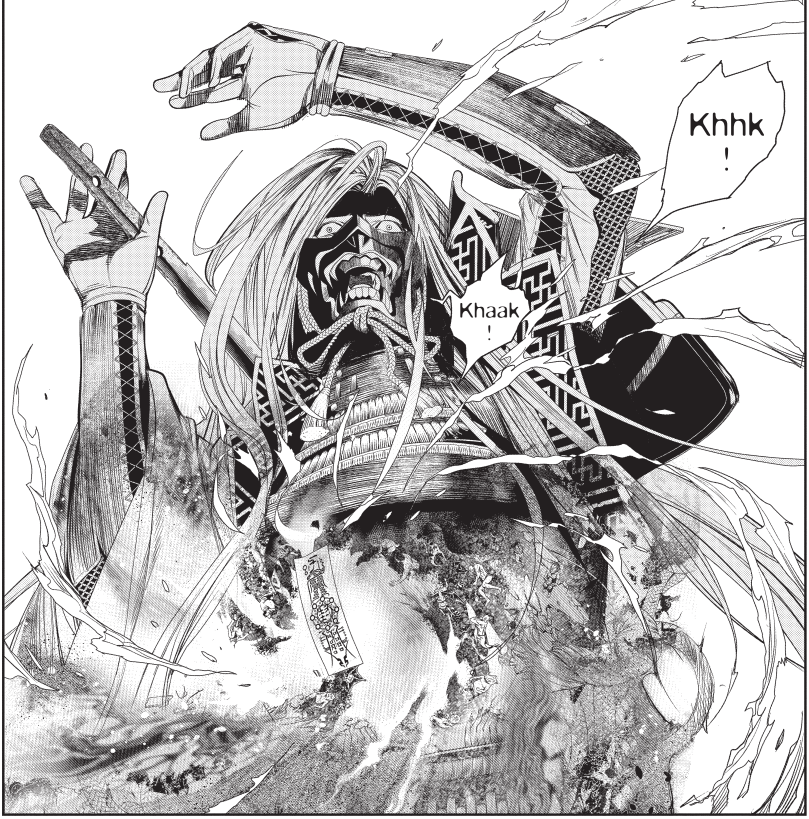

I'm sorry— Shinobu.
We really are...
...causing you nothing but sorrow, aren't we?
If I want to come to a proper answer,
I still need...
See you later.
...more time.

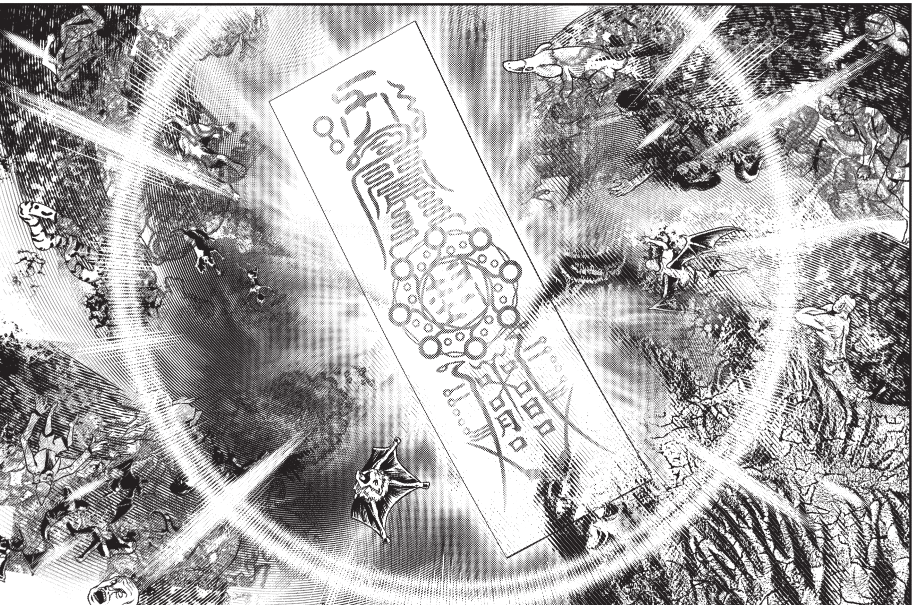
Haah
Hyiii
Hya aaa- aa

Aagh



BAKEMONOGATARI 20

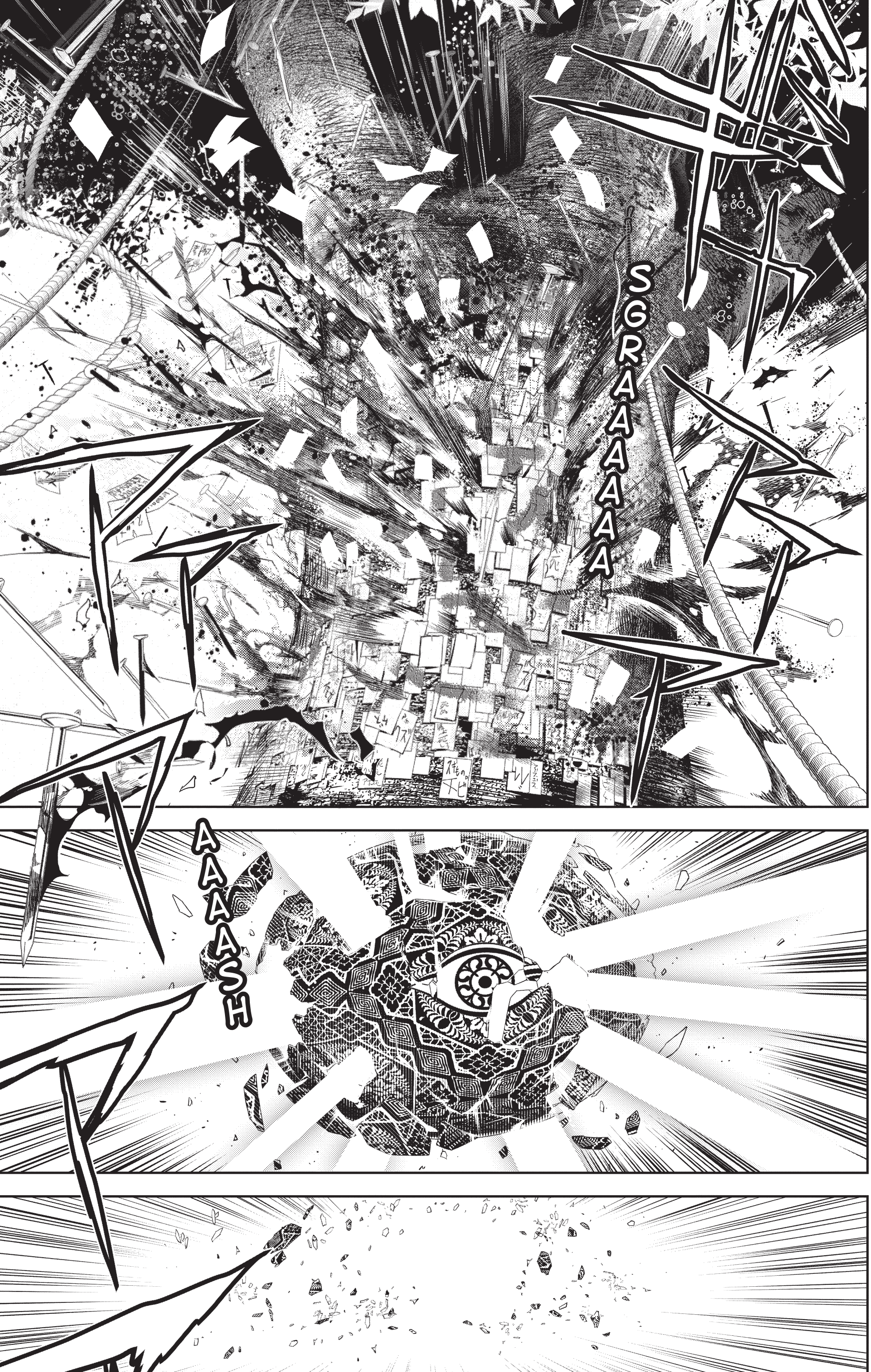

Khhk!
Khaak!

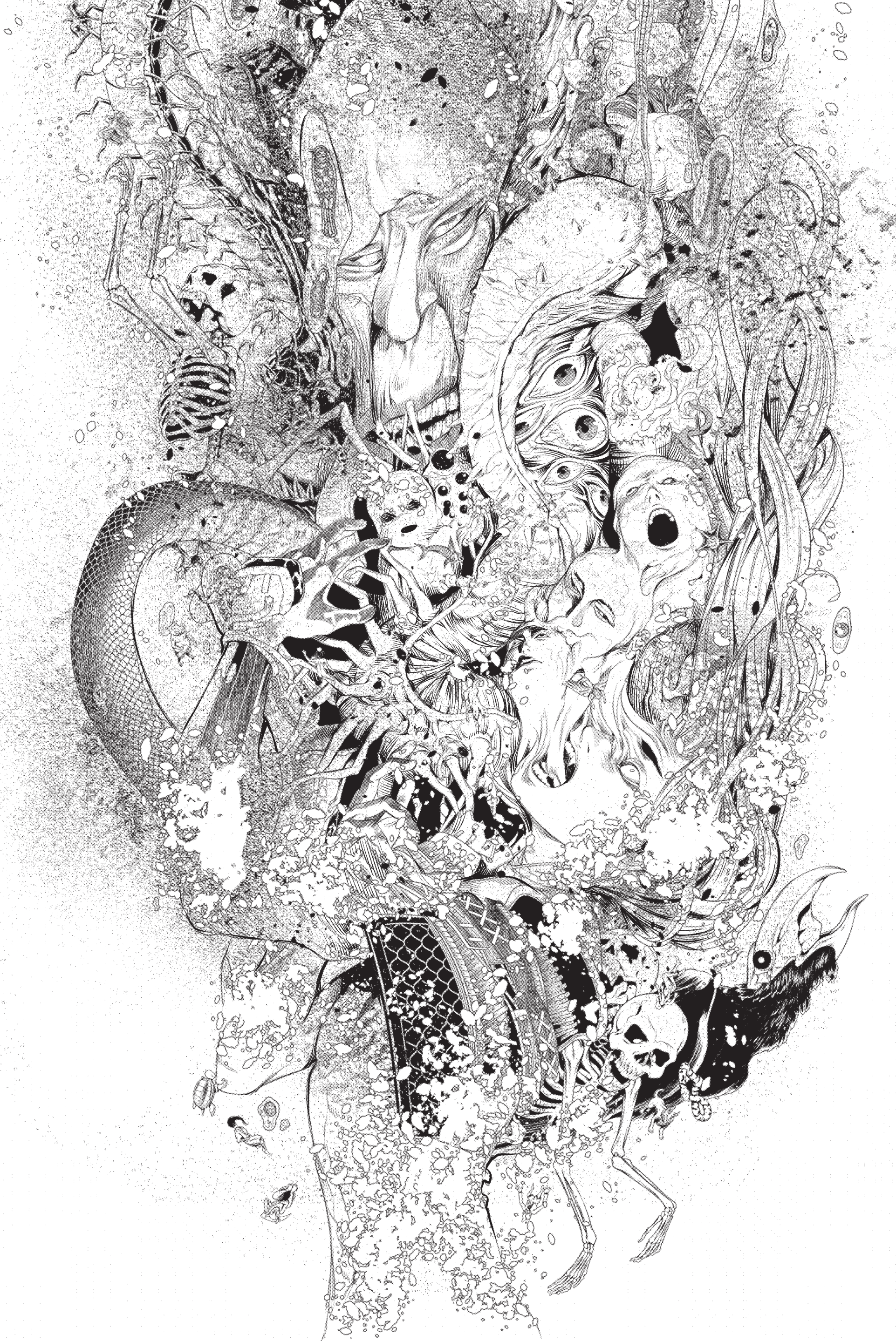


Araragi.
Could you do something for me?
Oh, it's a simple job. Just go stick an amulet on a shrine.
GWOOSH
That's when Oshino—
HYAGH!
GRAKAKAK
told me.

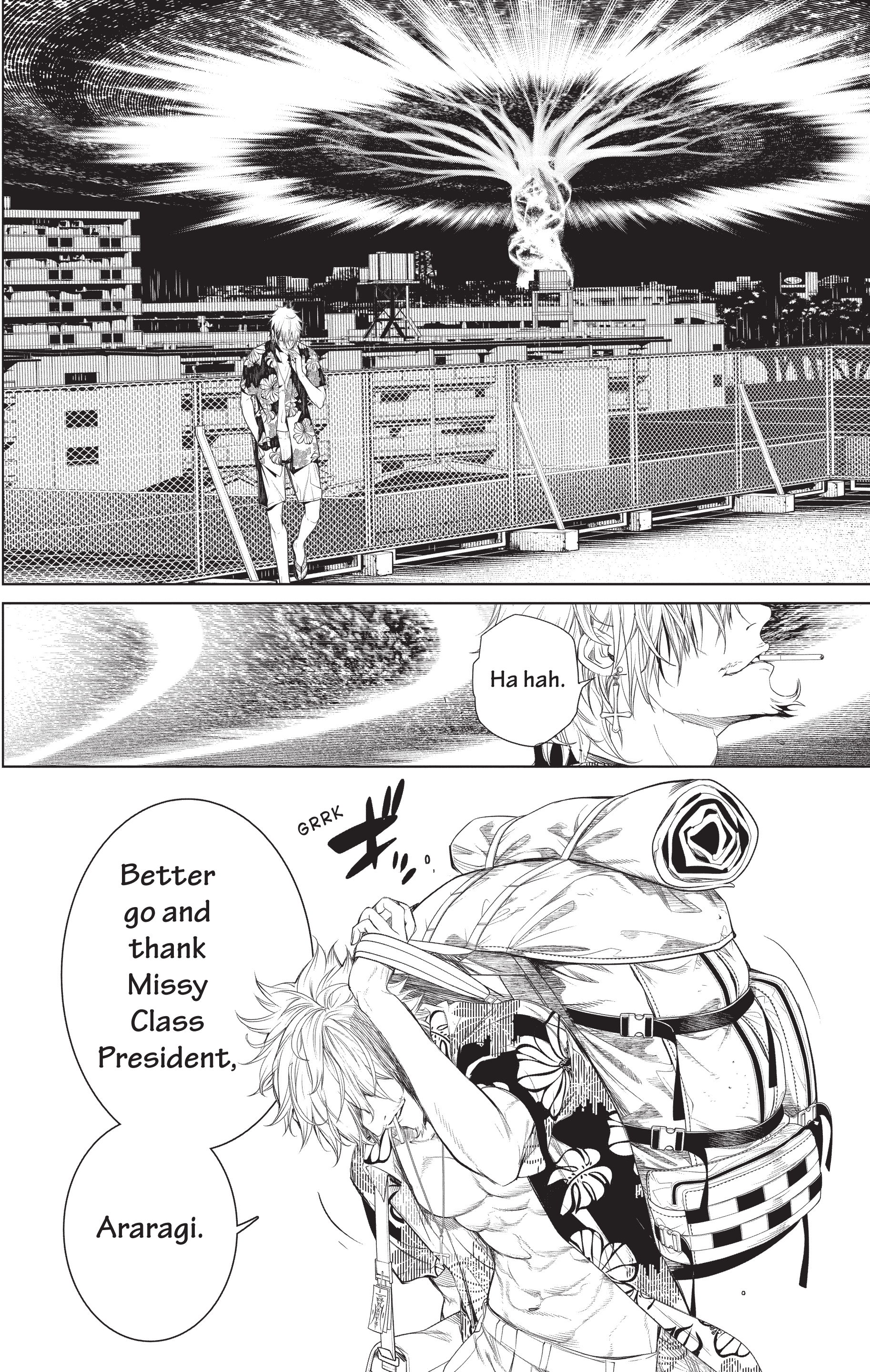
BLURP
ぶくラッ‥
There are *bad* things...
...gathered there, you know—
That's what he said.

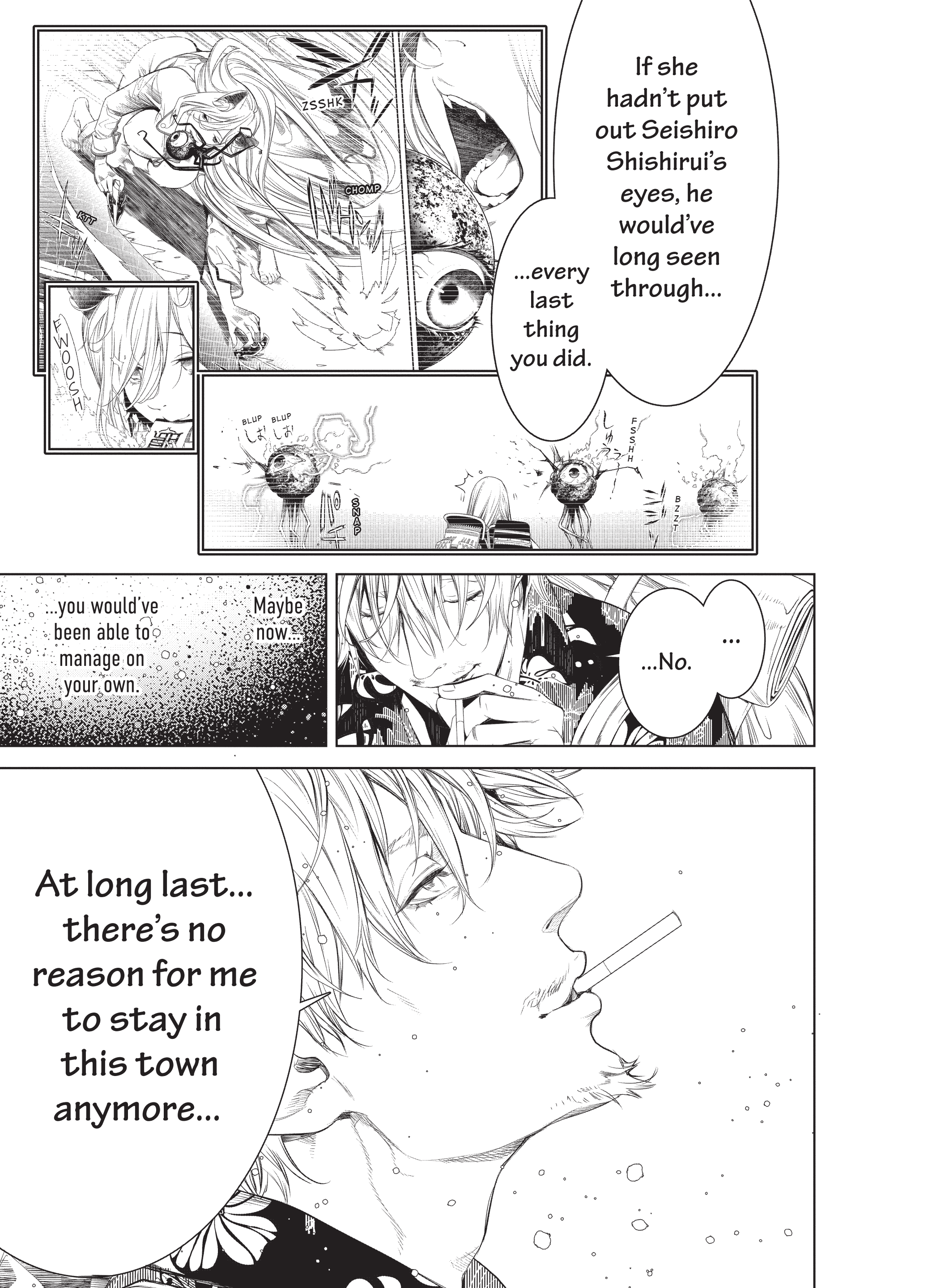
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
PTT
...
BWING
BWING
BWING
BWING

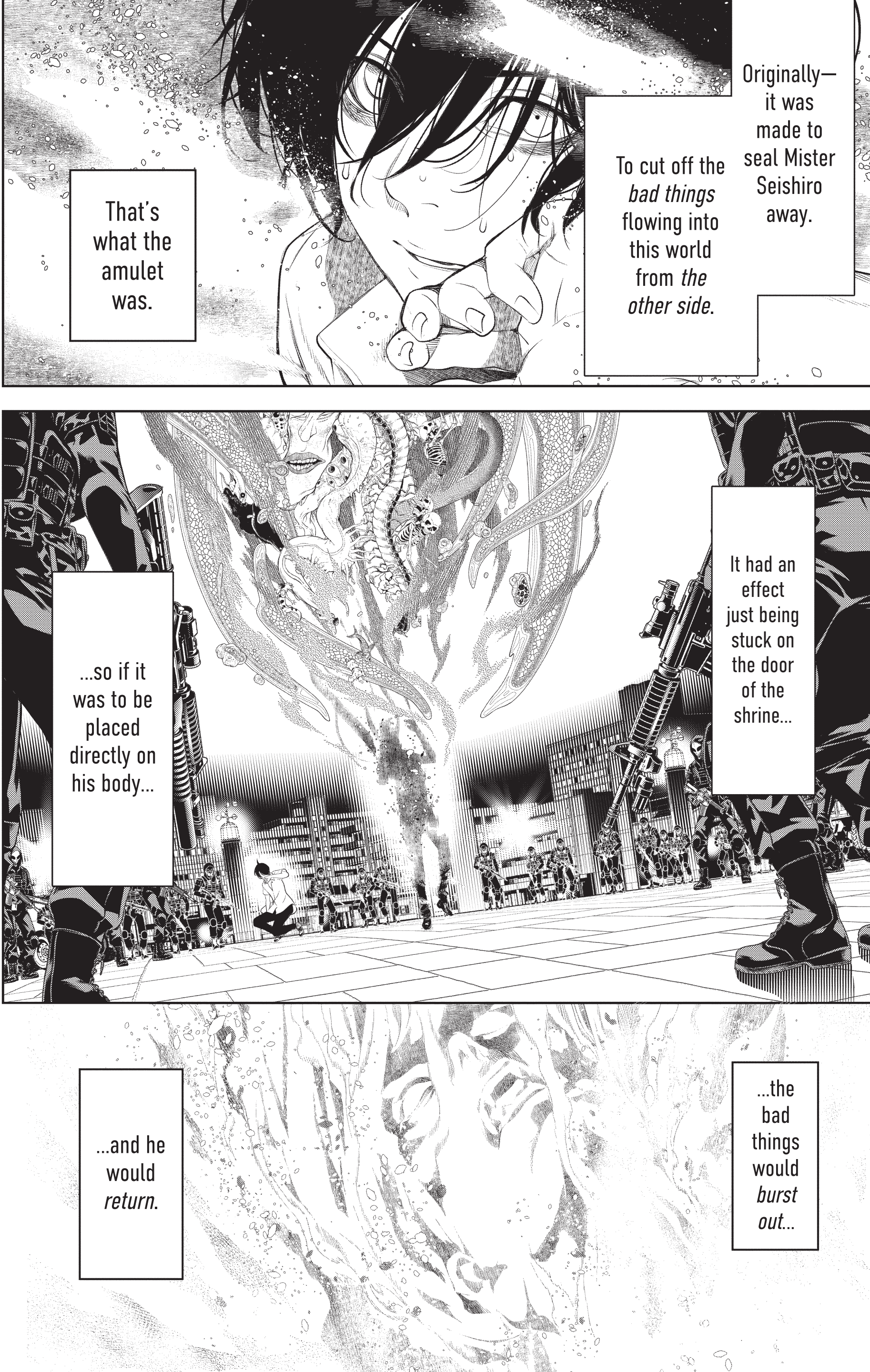

SGRAAAAAAA
AAAASH



That amulet?
Well...
I peeled it off...
...earlier today.
...
PRRHK


Ha hah.
GRRK
Better go and thank Missy Class President,
Araragi.


If she hadn't put out Seishiro Shishirui's eyes, he would've long seen through...
...every last thing you did.
ZSSHK
CHOMP
KTT
FWOOSH
FSSHH
BZZT
BLUP BLUP
SNAP
...
...No.
Maybe now...
...you would've been able to manage on your own.
At long last... there's no reason for me to stay in this town anymore...

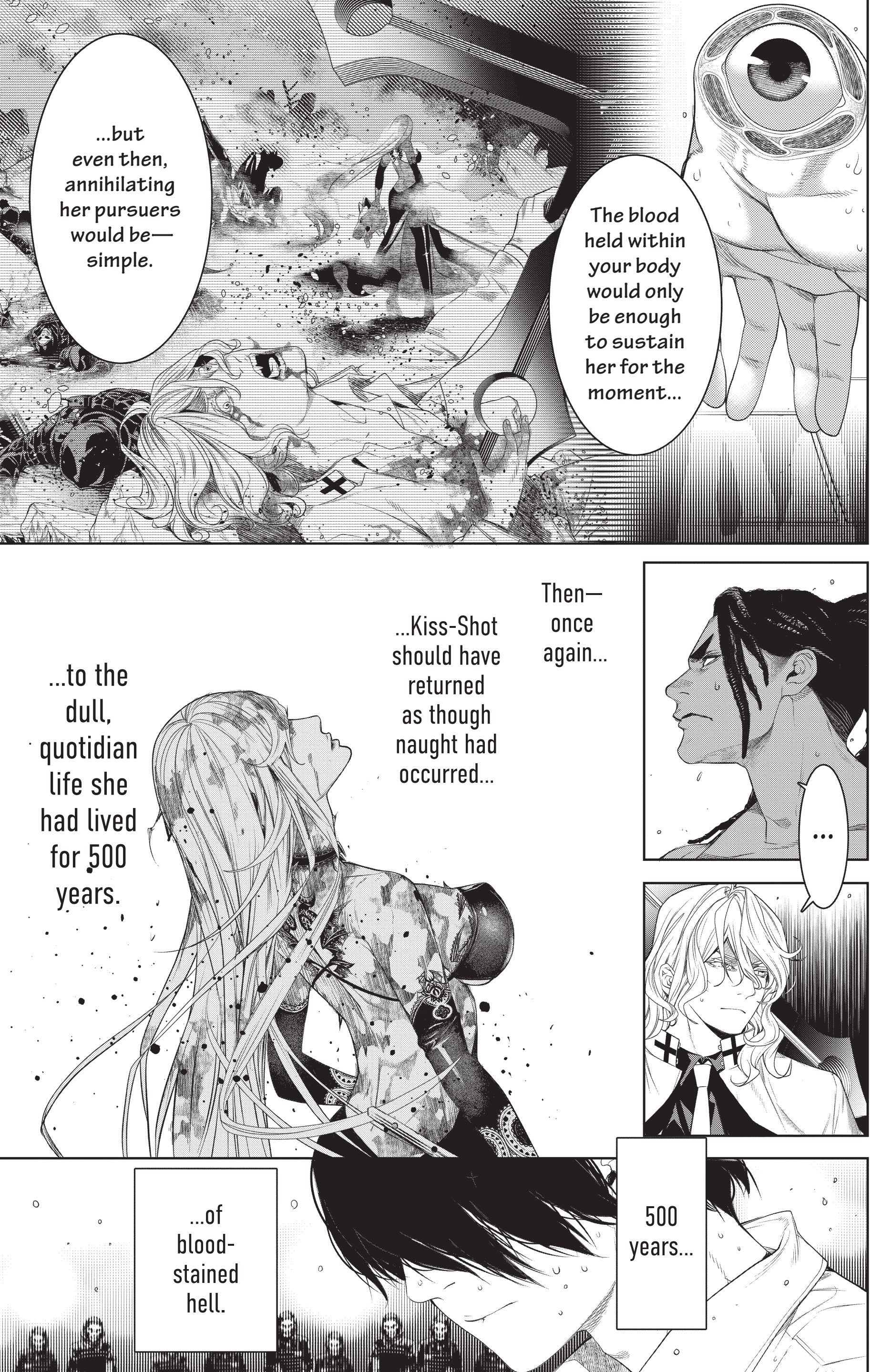

Originally— it was made to seal Mister Seishiro away.
To cut off the *bad things* flowing into this world from *the other side*.
That's what the amulet was.
It had an effect just being stuck on the door of the shrine...
...so if it was to be placed directly on his body...
...the bad things would *burst out*...
...and he would *return*.

I wasn't expecting that.
Yeah... Never thought he'd twist the "one touch and you win" rule...
...into winning with a single touch from that amulet!
TOUCH!!
Er, that's really not what I was trying to do.
Please, that's enough.
KLAAANG
I still need to hit him with this.
KOFF
Or it won't be ov...

パキ KRAKL
パキ KRAKL
パキ KRAKL
When he was consumed by the Darkness along with Kiss-Shot...
...this is what was left of him.
The one *original part*—of Mister Seishiro's body.
This left hand alone...
...for 400 years.
You're amazing, ... you know that?

*"Migi" means "right" in Japanese and is also the name of the parasitic alien from the *Parasyte* manga.

I am most sorry.
I...
ペこり
BOW
...had no intention whatsoever of turning thee into a vampire.
Mine one and only desire—was to save Kiss-Shot.
It was, without question, a mere coincidence that thou didst happen to pass by in that moment, Koyomi.

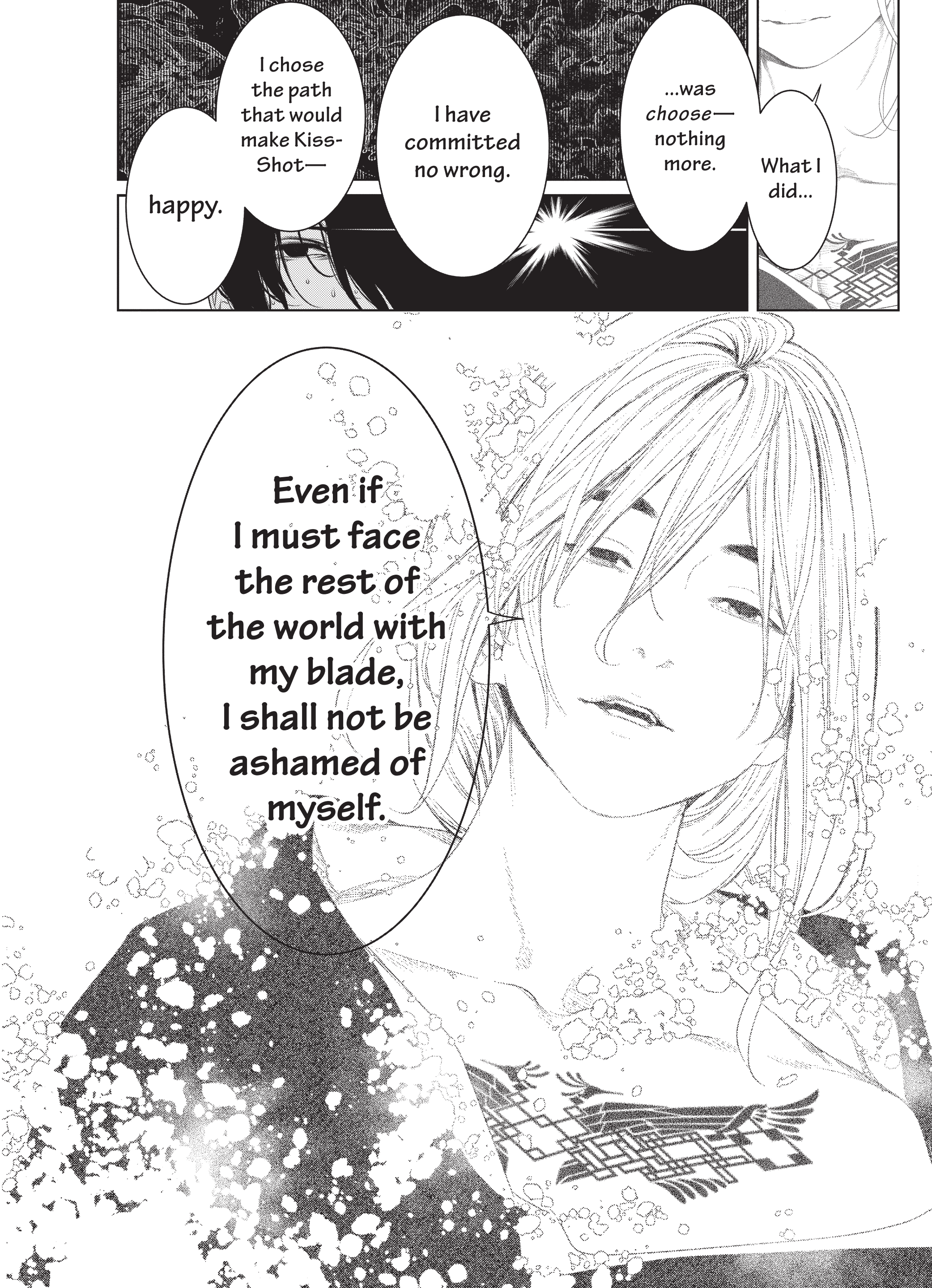

The blood held within your body would only be enough to sustain her for the moment...
...but even then, annihilating her pursuers would be—simple.
Then—once again...
...Kiss-Shot should have returned as though naught had occurred...
...to the dull, quotidian life she had lived for 500 years.
...
500 years...
...of blood-stained hell.

Go ahead. Suck.
But...
...that is not what came to pass.
I...bore witness to it.
Not since I first turned to ash...
...and burned for 400 years had I beheld it.

It may... be possible.
If I were to use him well...
'Twas hope.
Mayhap I could pull Kiss-Shot down...
...from her throne as the King of Aberrations.
Slayer
Aberration

She is a noble maid.
With a lofty spirit—too lofty.
MYRMECODIA TUBEROSA
Living all alone.
MHM
I yearned for her to live a life less restrained.
'Twas all along—what I desired.
Just because one is *incapable of dying*—does not necessarily mean that they are *living*.

But the issue at hand—was what to do about the cursed aberrations.
With her immense power, Kiss-Shot's mere existence draws them to her.
No experts could simply leave her be.
What we require...
...is a new ruler.
One who shall shoulder all of Kiss-Shot's misery.
A new... king.
And so...you were going to make Hanekawa your new "king."
She was your sacrifice.


What I did...
...was choose— nothing more.
I have committed no wrong.
I chose the path that would make Kiss-Shot—
happy.
Even if I must face the rest of the world with my blade, I shall not be ashamed of myself.

化 *bake*

物 *mono*

語 *gatari*

TSUBASAcat

20

化 *bake*

物 *mono*

TSUBASAcat

20

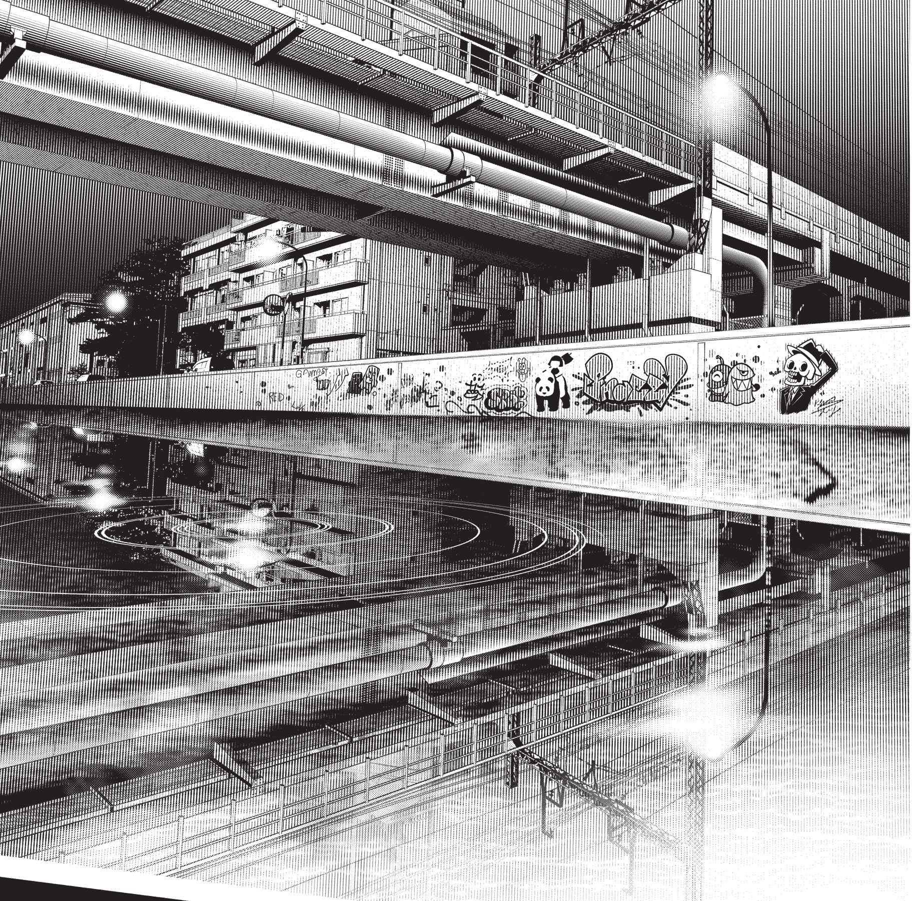
語 *gatari*

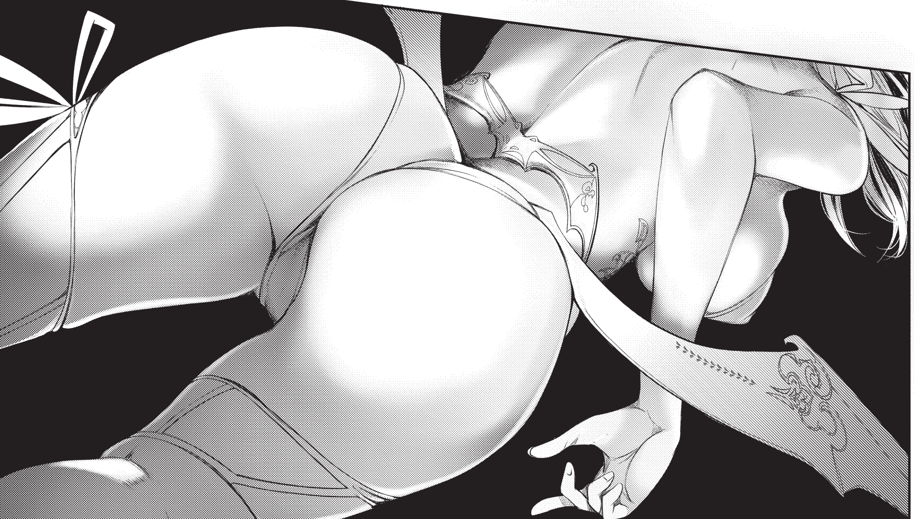
SHHK
SHHK
SHHK
I...
...have been aware of that fair maid...
...for a number of years now.

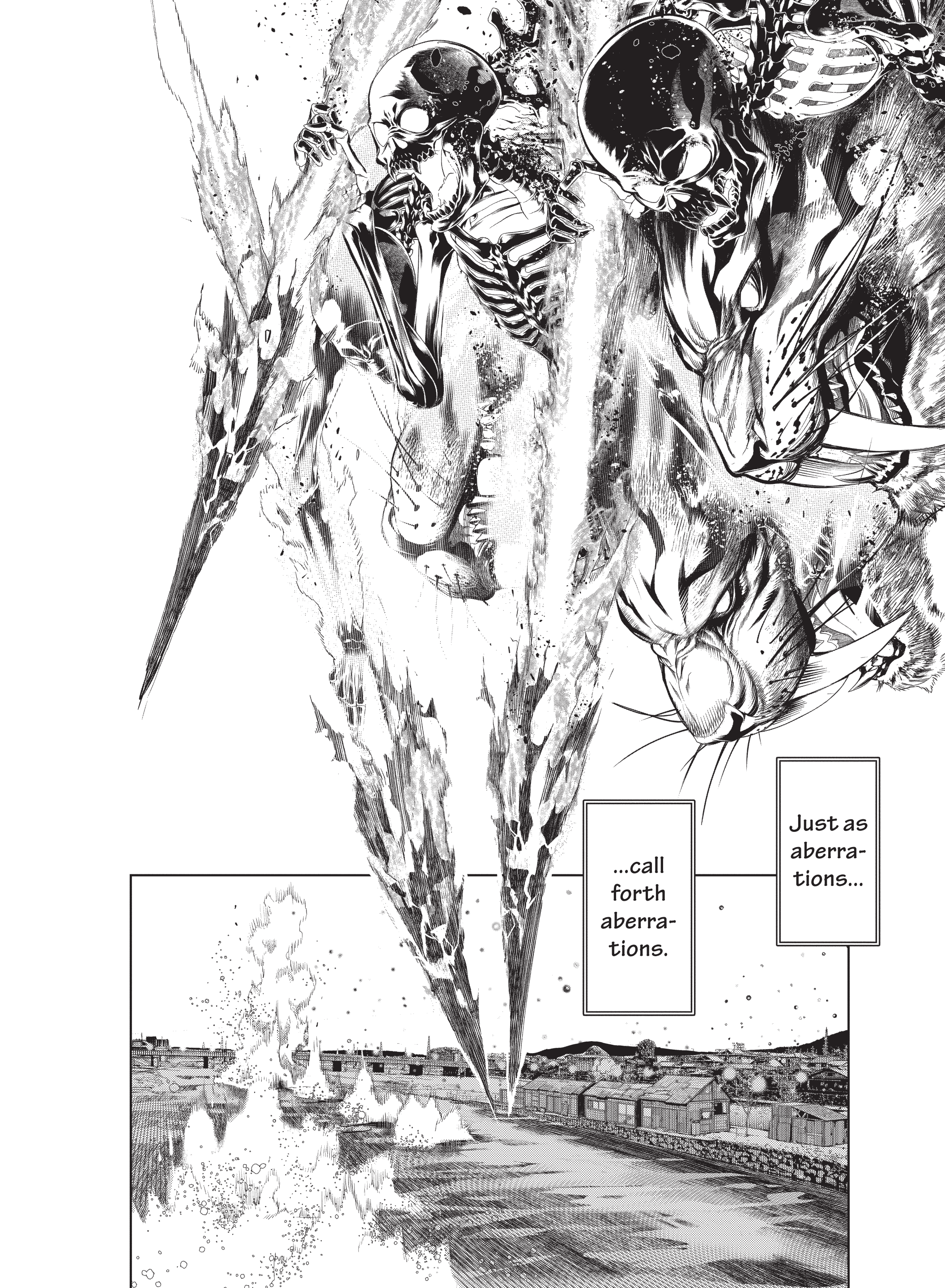
How strange ...
...she is...
At times, she would come to my domain.
And then, once within the grounds of Kita-Shirahebi Shrine...she would simply read.

They are everywhere you look.
Those with nowhere to go.
Those facing isolation.
But those with wisdom. Those with drive. Those with courage—
Those with kindness.
ose with integrity. Those
odwill. Those with knowle
hose with hearts that are b
e still equally kind to all. T
h an education. Those tha
ite. Those with morals. T
deep. Those whose ac
lack honor. Those with
cal. se with di
olarship.
Those with a
rsonality. Thos
without fault. Thos
with compassion.
Those with a deep
Those with a metho
cal approach. Th
who are co
scientio
Those with
a model
hose with
a logi
rance in th
tions and correct
t from those around
se with common sense
beautiful appearance.
hout attachment. Those
ong will. Those with supe
ytical abilities. Thos
nscend the vulgar.
spect from those
hem. Those with v
hose whose words
tions are ever-co
and impres
a sharp m nd. Th
affection
h strong pow
observation.
th noble aims. Those
se thirst for knowledge
voracious. Those who are
est and steadfast. Tho
th a dislike for conflict
se with outstanding
with patience. T
n maintain an
derstanding.
ational minds
model behavior.
I had yet to encounter someone...
...who embodies all of those qualities.

HMPH
I suppose.
The hell're you actin' so proud for? Don't make me kill you.
Uh...
Are you really one to talk?
But what most drew me to her...
...is that she was more miserable than any other.





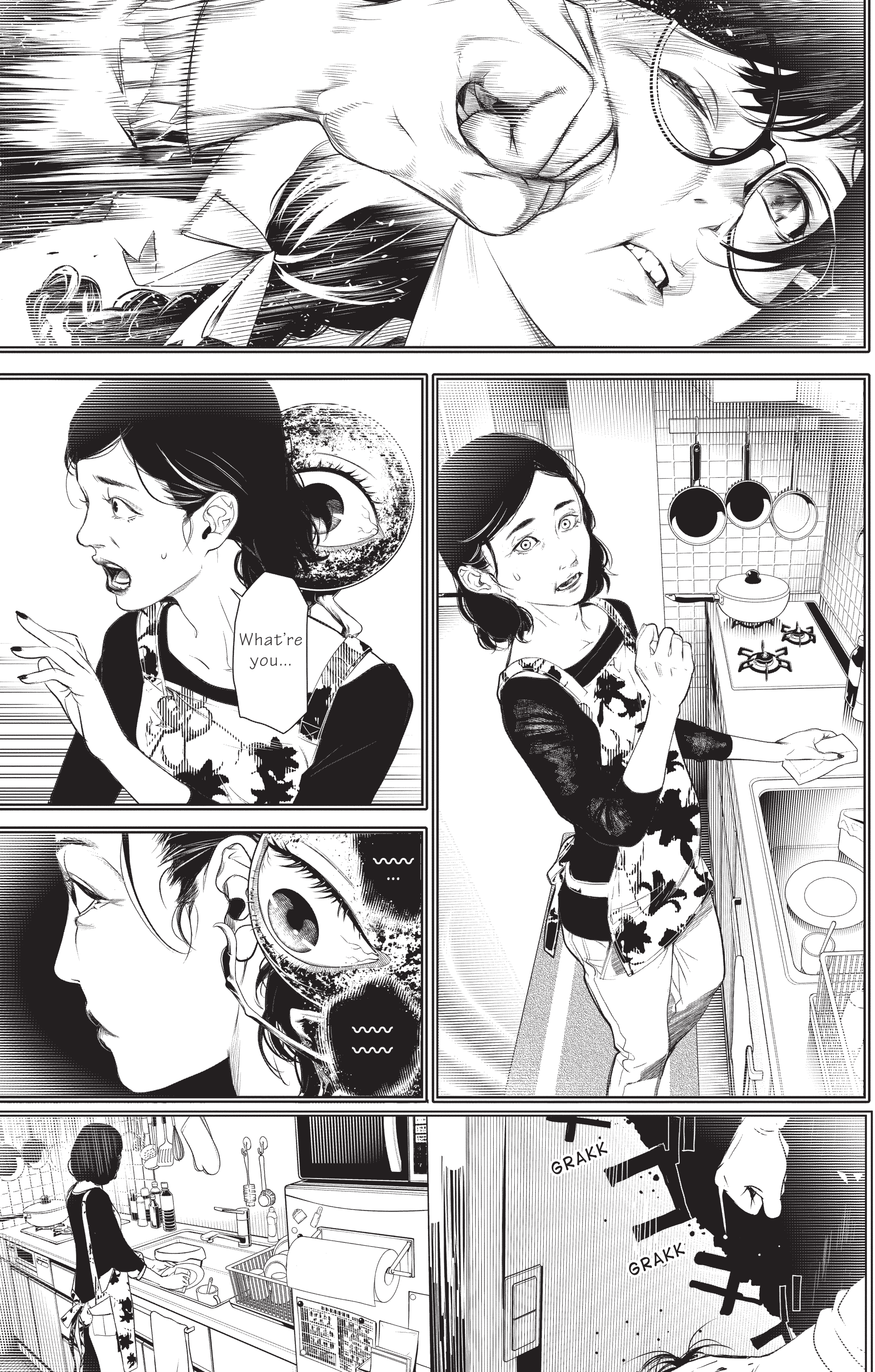

Just as aberra-tions...
...call forth aberra-tions.

Misery ...
...calls forth misery.

One who is truly miserable will even draw in all the misery from their surroundings.
To scrape it toward oneself.
Misery
And so I would make her...
...all the more miser-able.
FWOOM
MISERY
MISERY
OSSHT
Miserable
As a person— nay, even as an *aberra-tion.*
I would bring to her every imag-inable misery.
I would have her shoulder ...
Misery
...all of Kiss-Shot's misery and misfortune.
THMP

...Really, I'm grateful. I'd take any helping hand. Even a helping paw!
But... what's the matter? Why did you want to help out all of a sudden...?
I was just thinking that maybe there's something I could do.
I know I'm just providing simple support, though. I don't want to get in your way.
Oh...
...
Yeah.
Haha!
Well, it's just that you're far more talented than any of my reports.
Of course, of course! Yes, you're really helping me out here!
...
I did my best...
...to try to meet him halfway, but...
She made an attempt to mend her relationship with her kin.
And with a natural brilliance like hers, she had nearly accomplished her aim.

So, about the difference on the balance sheet for Kodan Provisions...
And so...
...I ruined it.
www www w...
www... ... ...
BAM
Those documents are important!
Don't get them dirty with that pen you've had in your mouth!
Huh?
?
Um.
?!
It wasn't in my mou...
You always got something to say, don't you?! Even when you don't understand what you're talking about!

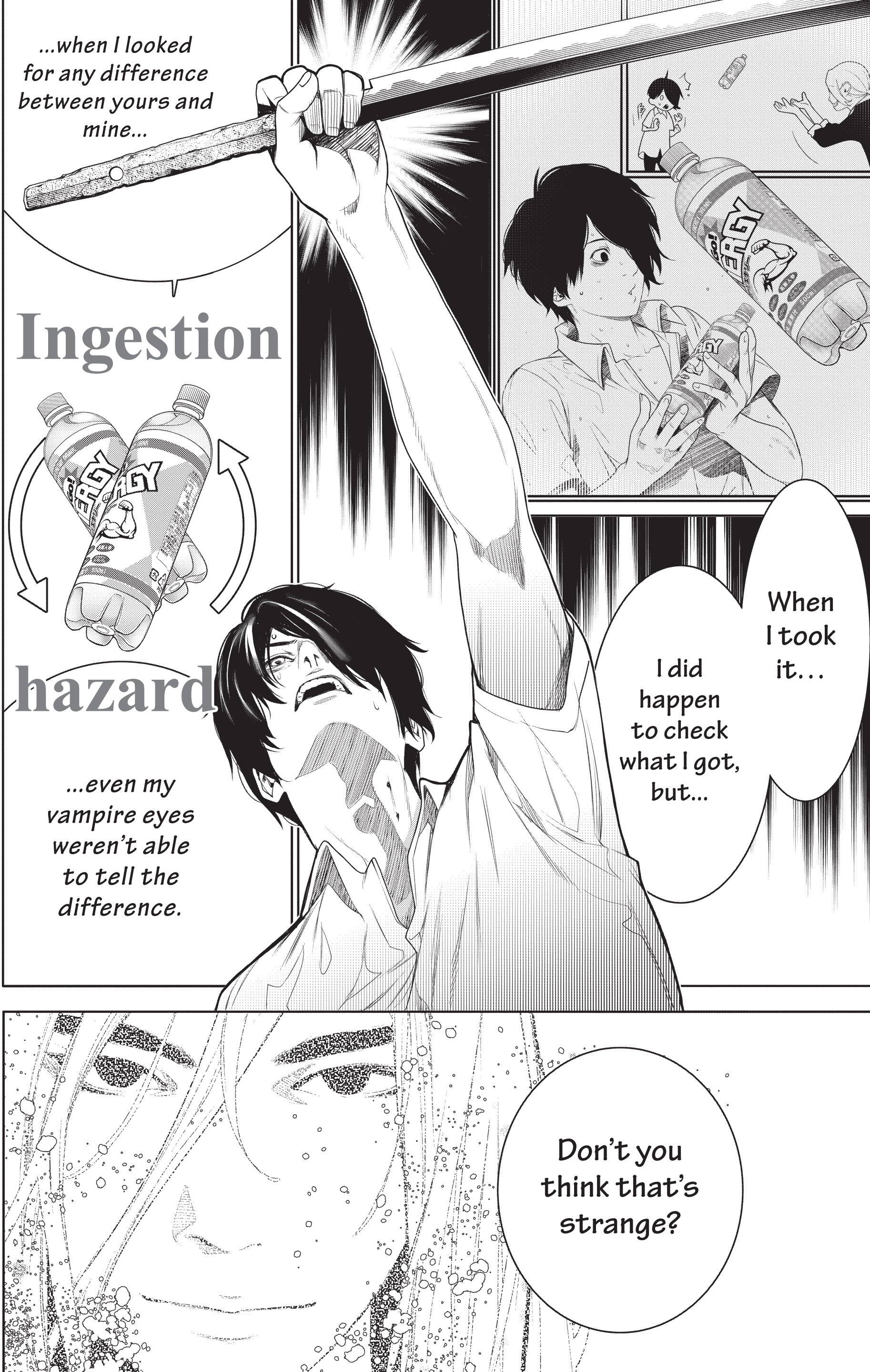

What're you...
~~~ ...
~~~ ~~~
GRAKK
GRAKK

KRAKL
KRAKL
BOOM

Hey!
What the hell is that?!
We agreed on the rules!
I get to slaughter the loser!
SLIDE
?!!
KLATTER
KLATTER
KLATT

...This duel isn't over yet.
I have to hit him with this...
...for it to be decided—right?
GRIP
GRRRCH
Mister Seishiro...
Why is it... that you want me to cut you down so badly...?

What need was there—for you to talk about Hanekawa now?
That's something even she wouldn't have noticed.
If you'd just kept your mouth shut—nobody would have known.
Oshino was strangely defensive when it came to her parents.
No… maybe not.
Creepy, isn't it?
Even I'd hit a kid like that.
That's scarier than an aberration.
Was it because of—*something like this*?
And then—there's that.
Your "holy water."


When I took it…
I did happen to check what I got, but...
...when I looked for any difference between yours and mine...
Ingestion hazard
...even my vampire eyes weren't able to tell the difference.
Don't you think that's strange?

You and I are the same—both Kiss-Shot's thralls...both with the *same abilities.*
If I can't tell the difference, you can't either.
You didn't do anything to eliminate the risk of you drinking the holy water by accident.
No, it's even more basic than that.
There was no need for you to appear in front of me in the first place.
If you wanted to kill me and have Kiss-Shot for yourself... there must have been plenty of other ways to do it.
So why do all that?
Haha ...

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha
Haha ha! Ha ha ha ha h
That's right.
Those—were like lots.
A fifty-fifty chance.
Ha ha ha ha ha
I resolved...
...to grasp at straws...
...to discern if per-chance...
KRUMBLE
KRUMBLE
KRUMBLE
...I still had what one might consider fortune.
Ha ha h

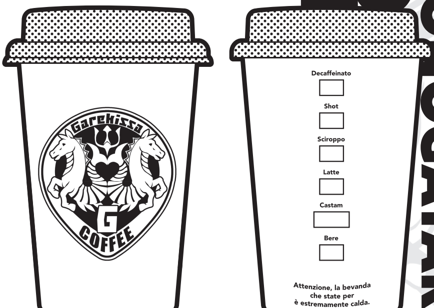
Ha ha Kiss-Shot
Ha ha ha ha ha ha
Kiss Shot Kiss-Shot!
What I was incapable of achieving in 400 years...
...thou didst accomplish in but nine days. In the face of a man such as he...

I ought to have known...
...my prospects were for naught.
Kiss-Shot.
I do wish I could have shown you...
...something that might have left you slightly impressed with me.

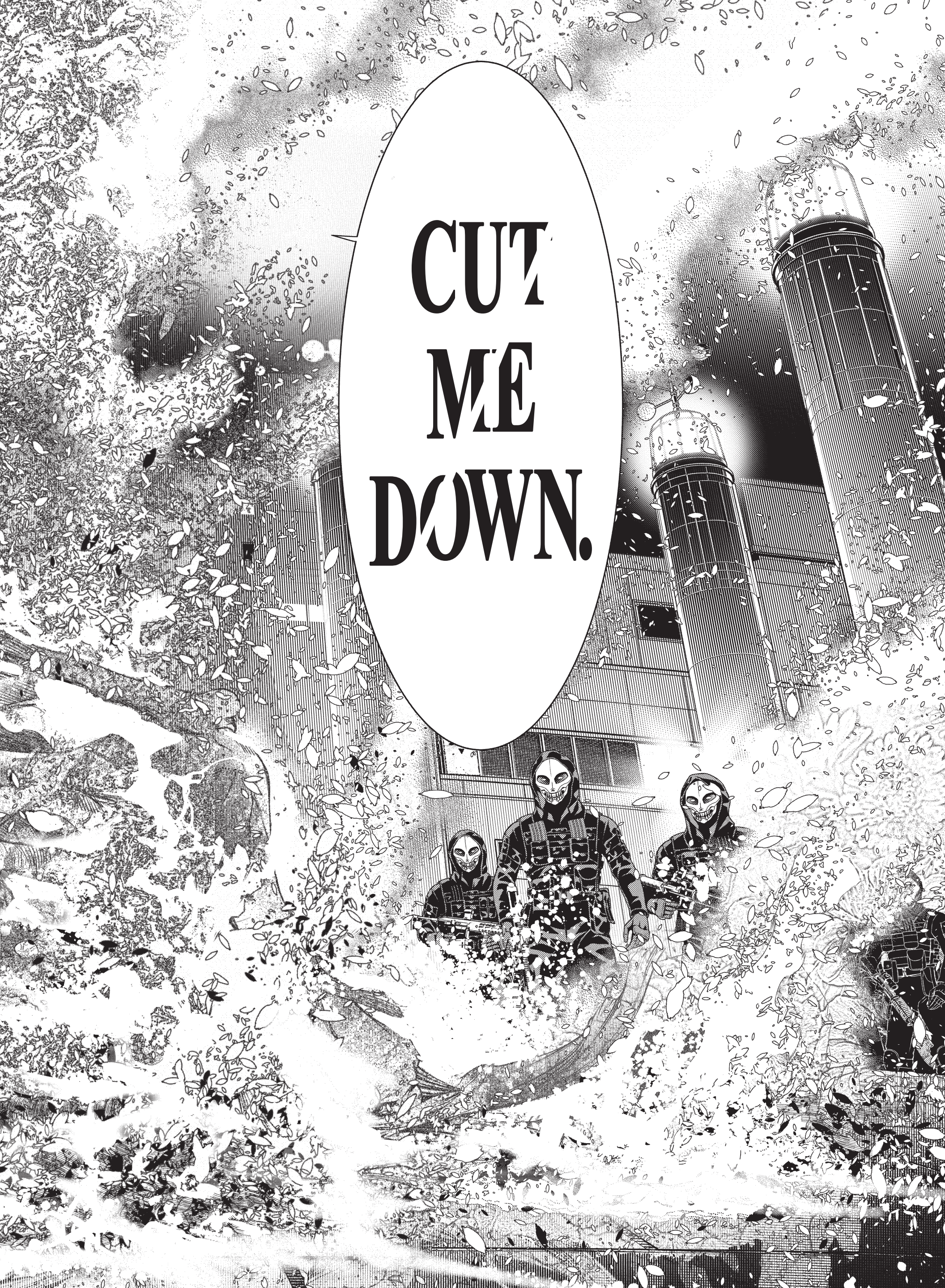
BAKEMONOGATARI 20

BAKEMONOGATARI

20



I knew it.
All from the very start.
He just wanted to check for himself.
He wanted to know what the meaning of this fight was.
Mister Seishiro tested me.
He wanted to see...
...if he could leave Kiss-Shot—
if he could leave Shinobu— in my hands.


CUT ME DOWN.

Come, cut me down!
Cut me down.
Cut me down, cut me down, cut me down!
Cut me down.
Make haste! Hurry, hurry! Hurry! Destroy me with that blade!
I will return— to being ashes... *I will be forced to live on as ash!*
So cut me down!
I have lived for 400 years.
I am done. I have had my fill.
So cut me down!

It really is irresponsible...
...to be kind to everyone.
When was it—
that Hanekawa told me this?
The act of saving someone.
The act of showing kindness to someone.
It comes with responsi-bility.
If you don't snuff him out now...
...he's going to spread calamity around the world again, you know...
GRIP

Mister Seishiro—you...
From the very start...
...Ha-ha.
Did I not tell thee...?
The world is better off without a single vampire in it...
Haha-ha!

KISS-
KISS-SHOT
SHOT
KISS-
SHOT
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
ALLOW ME TO OFFER MY POLOG
There is no need to apologize.

sd-34
I forgave thee long ago.

In fact, 'twas I— who was in the wrong.
Forgive me, Seishiro.

—
?!
ザザ
ザザ
ZSSSHH
ZSSHH
ZSSHH
ザザ…ザザ…

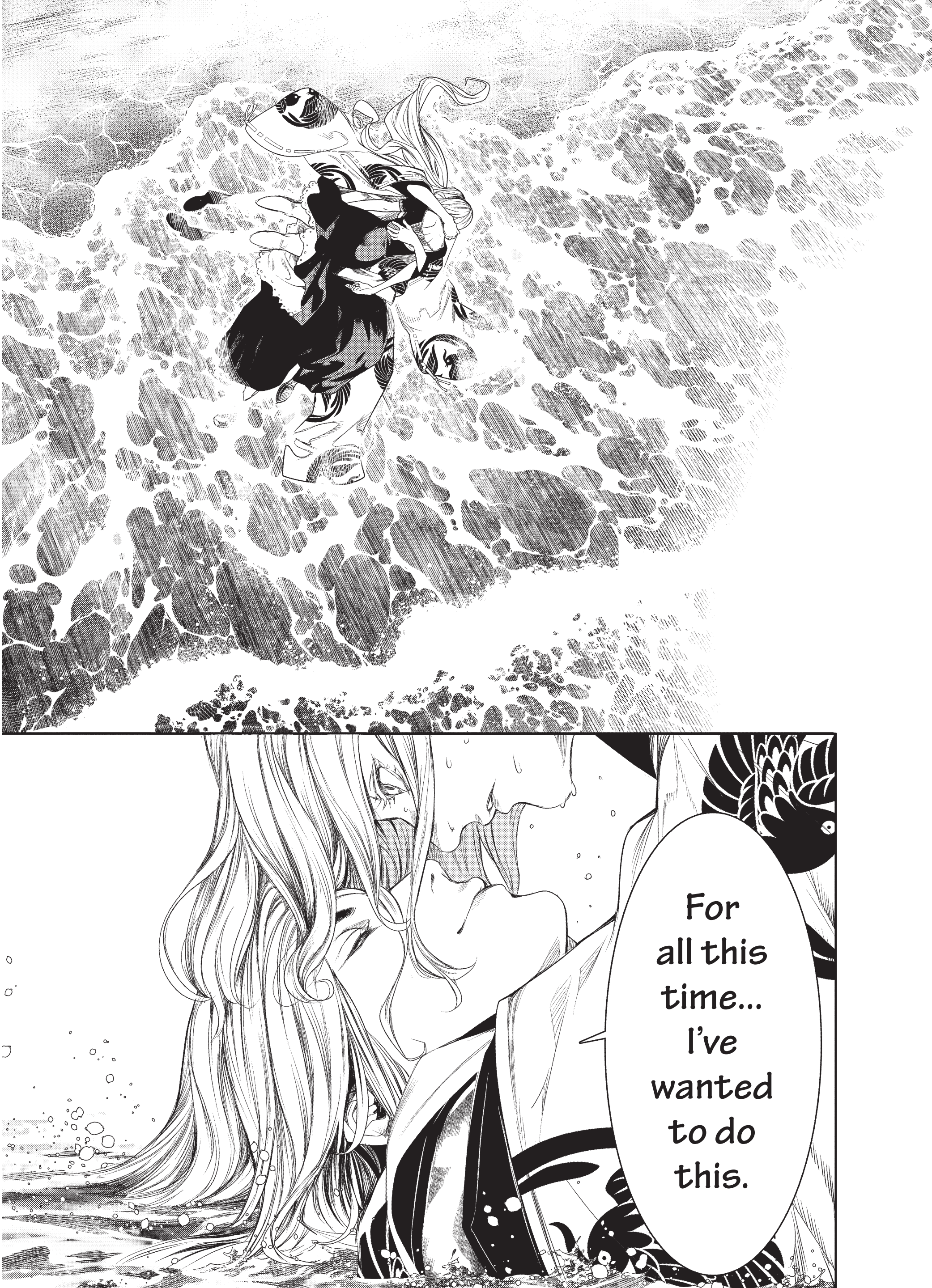
Warble—
Warble.
How surprising. So hell...
...is this tranquil a place.
ZPLOOSH

PFFF
I hunger even in death...
I do wish I had a final glimpse of her...
...that I could have met her one last time...
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL

Ah, Seishiro.
How long it has been.

ZPLOOSH
ZSSHH
ZSSHH
Agh, hot!

Thou art as beautiful as ever... It is hard to believe I am looking at a woman at the matronly age of 500.
Heh.
DRIBBLE DRIBBLE
TWITCH
TWITCH
To think those would be thy final words after 400 years alive...
KRAK KRAK
POP
SPLASH
SPLASH
Ah!
Kiss-Shot, Kiss-Shot! 'Tis terrible, hurry!
Hmm?


For all this time... I've wanted to do this.

I want this—to last forever.
Kiss-Shot. What I am...
I love thee.
...is thy cursed past itself.

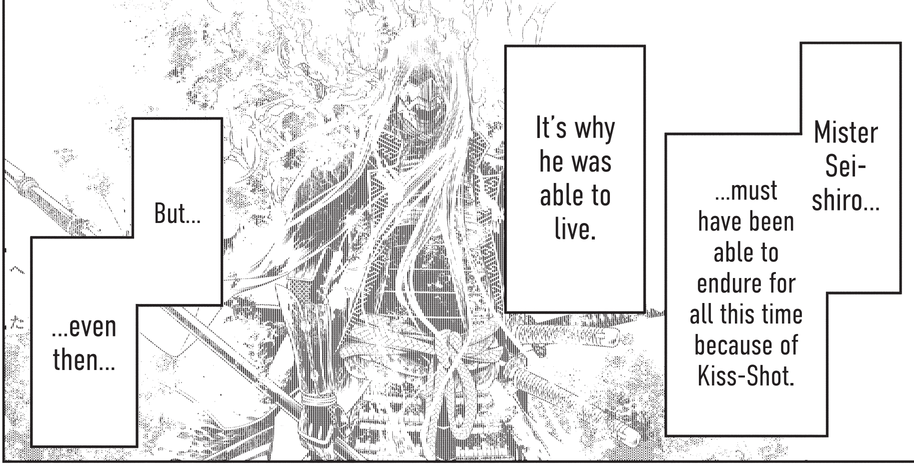
...
Sei-shiro.
I...
....
I...
No need.
Thou art now—"Shinobu"... art thou not?
Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade...
...is dead now.
Heh.
I was 400 years...
...late in saying it...
...it seems.

And so I...
...will at least take that name.
Sei-shiro?
SPLASH

KRUNCH
I am glad... we could meet.
I thought we never would again.
KRAKL KRUNCH
KRAKL
POP
KRAK POP KRAK
MUNCH MUNCH
KRAKL KRUNCH

But I will not meet thee again.

I now have something more important.


Mister Sei-shiro...
...must have been able to endure for all this time because of Kiss-Shot.
It's why he was able to live.
But...
...even then...

400 years later...
...he finally succeeded in his suicide.

BAKEMONO
GATARI

20

BAKEMONO
GATARI

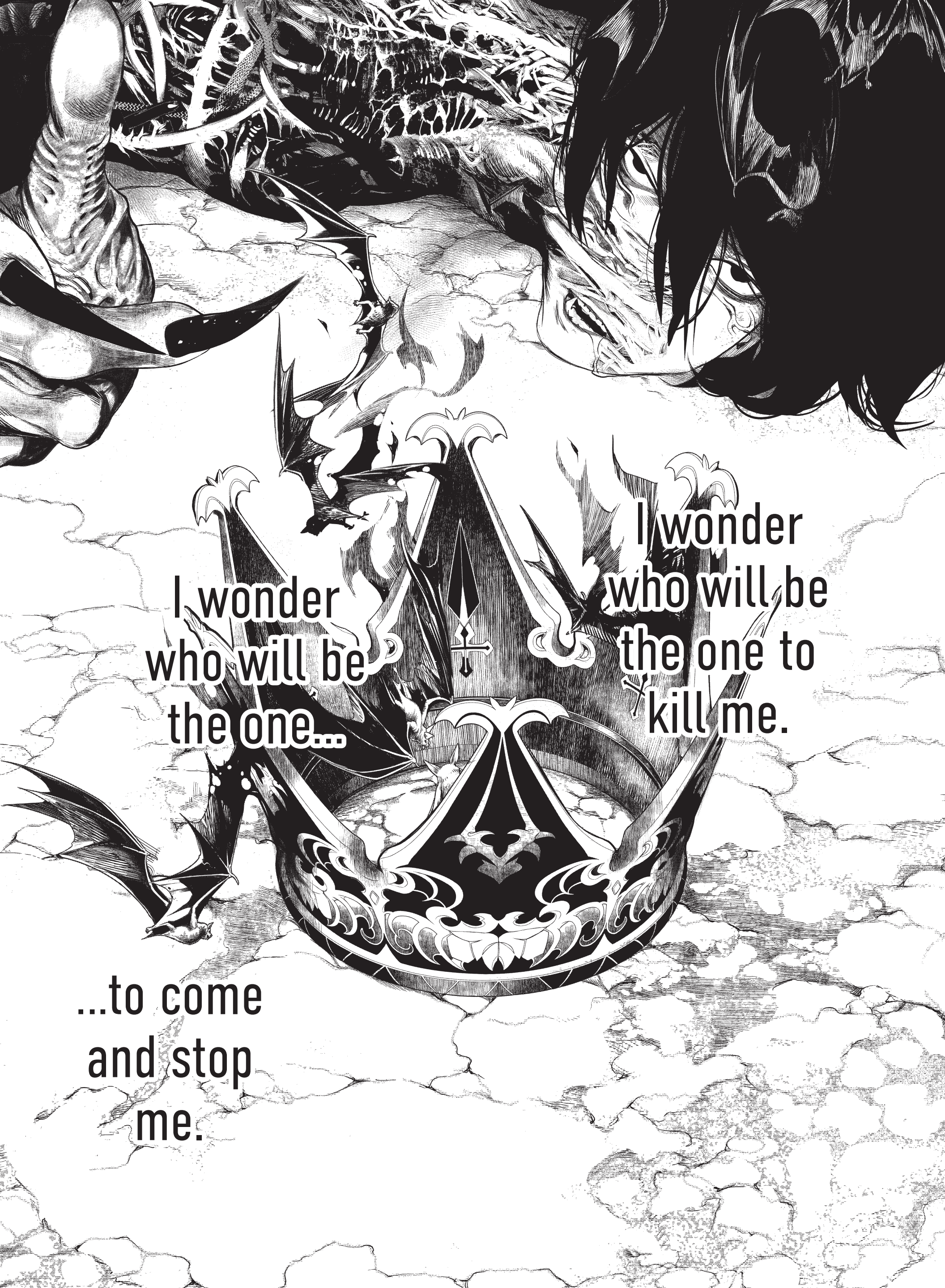
20

And so, after 400 years ...
...Seishiro's spectacular suicide ...
...came to an end....
I wonder if he died satisfied.

Kanji L-R:
Bee / Snake / Demon / Monkey /
Snail / Cat / Crab

NOBODY
He died.
But still...
See you later.
I had the feeling that I—
was going to meet him again.
And by that, I don't mean that Mister Seishiro was going to return.

I fear that I am what I just saw.
In centuries, I'll grow tired of living.
I'll grow tired of dying.
And the time will come when I wish for eternal negation, just like him.

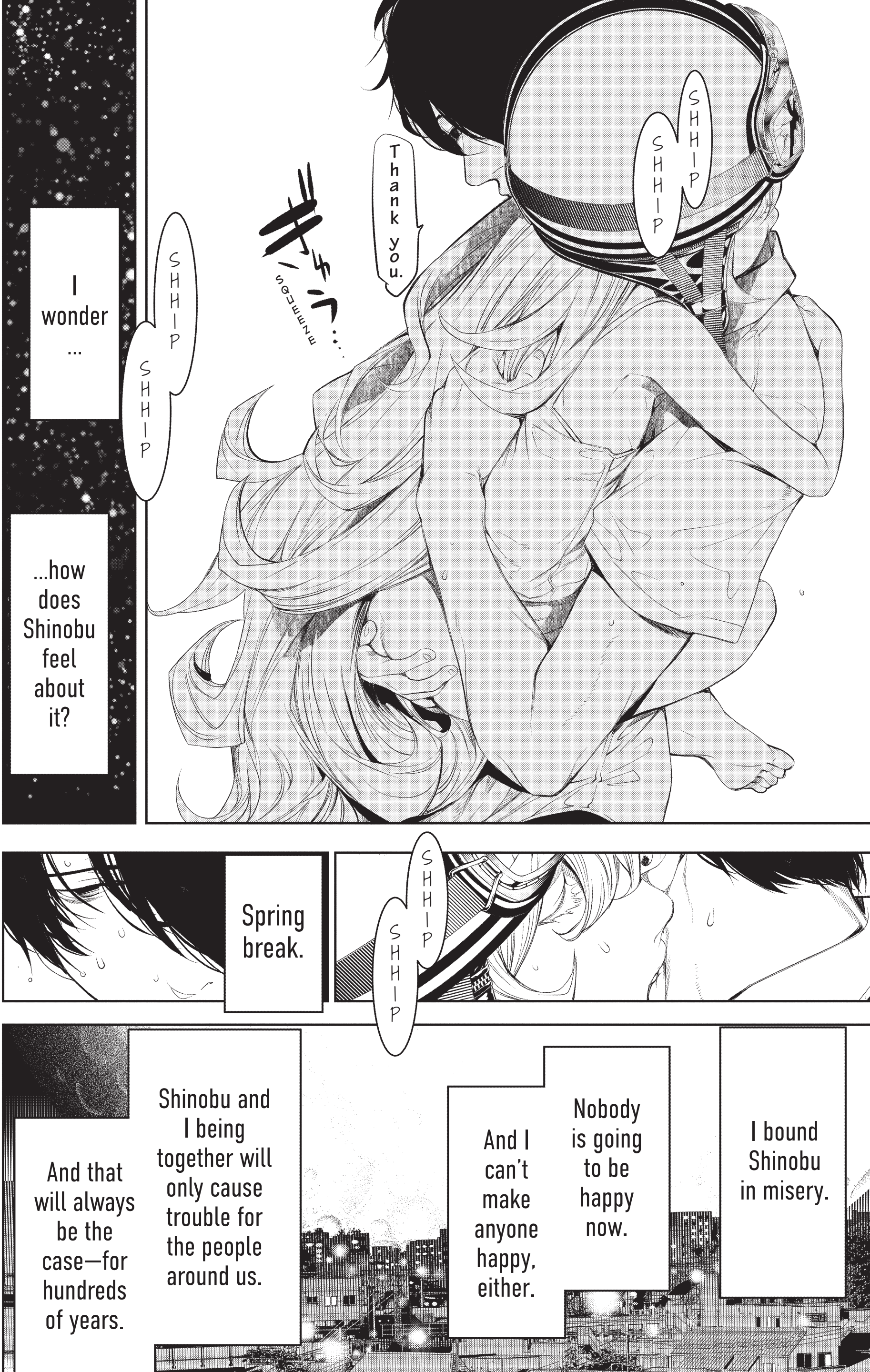

I wonder who will be the one...
I wonder who will be the one to kill me.
...to come and stop me.

400 years, huh...
That's... a long time...
It's such an obvious statement that I actually couldn't under-stand it.
But I think Mister Seishiro is the very reality that awaits me.
Heh.
What a dreadful visage...
...my master.

Hm?
...
She smiled?
"My master"?
...What's that?
I've no reason to remain stubborn now.
That is the nature of our power dynamic.
PLOP
PLOP
Huh?
In truth, I am bound by thy blood and name.
SMAK
OW?!!
THAT HURTS?!
NO, THAT REALLY HURTS!
OW?! WH...
THWAP
WHAT? WHAT?!
SMAK
SMAK
SMAK
THWAP

Young man.
In the world of *tsundere* little girls, that means ...
“Squat down.”
Or possibly “hold me.”
Oh... Okay, the—
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS!
I thought you were only into older women with three-foot-wide asses, Mister Drama...
That is nothing more than my private preference.
ARE YOU TELLING ME THERE ARE PUBLIC PREFERENCES, TOO?!
CHOMP
What.

WUH...
...
Wha...!
SHLU-UU-URP
WHUUAAAAAHHH!
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
WHISPER WHISPER
I still don't really understand vampire rules.
HEY... WHAT?!
HUH... HUH?!
Y-You two...?! Here in public...?
Damn... Are you exhibitionist freaks or something...?
Idiots...
At this rate, thou wouldst die.
I am restoring thy stamina.
Oh.
Oh... Like Oshino was saying.
So that's what this is.
The two of you offset your respective strength by way of the other's blood...
...so having your blood sucked will cause your power to be restored.


SHHIP
SHHIP
Thank you.
SQUEEZE
SHHIP
SHHIP
I wonder...
...how does Shinobu feel about it?
SHHIP
SHHIP
Spring break.
I bound Shinobu in misery.
Nobody is going to be happy now.
And I can't make anyone happy, either.
Shinobu and I being together will only cause trouble for the people around us.
And that will always be the case—for hundreds of years.

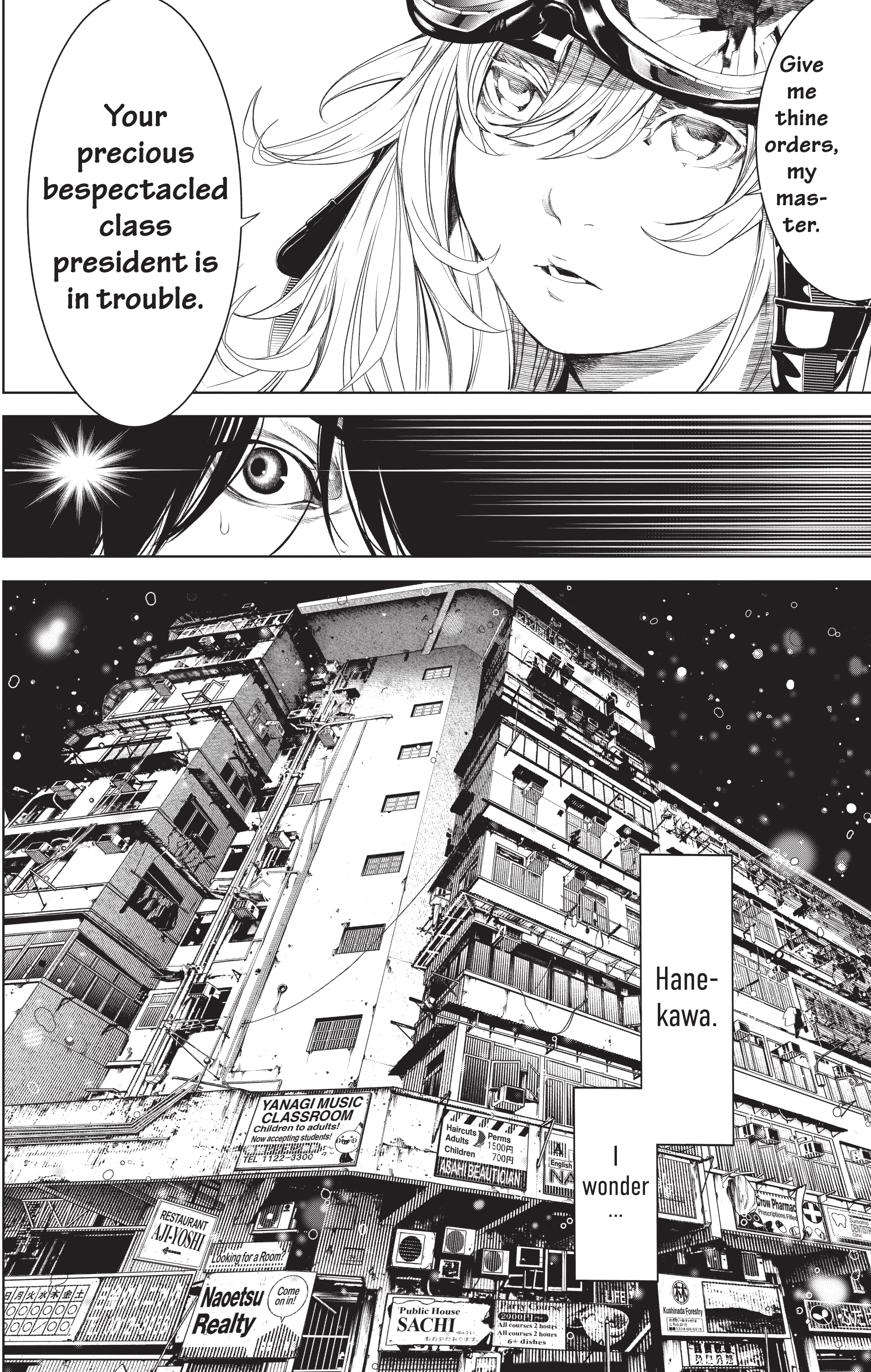
You know, that just sounds like an excuse to me.
When was it?
The time that Senjogahara cut that side of me to pieces, just as she would.
Please go easy on me, I'll never be happy.
Just look at how miserable we are, aren't we so pitiful, don't attack us— and so on.
SORRY
Please forgive me, I'll never be happy.
That kind of thing.

I can only say this because I was the same way for two years.
But Araragi—
Aren't you contenting yourself with misery and misfortune and mistaking that for actually trying?
...
When I—in the truest sense—make everyone miserable...
...I have a feeling that this entire world will be destroyed.

I'm fine with always being miserable.
But is that really true?
I wonder what happiness is...
...to Shinobu?
SANKYO
...

FWAAAAAAHH♡♡♡
HOW SPLENDIIID!
AAHH, I CAN HARDLY BEAR IT! ♡♡
れろ LICK
れろ LICK
I NEVER KNEW SUCH SUPREME BLISS EXISTED!
れろ LICK
れろ LICK

FORGIVE ME, SEISHIRO! 'TIS ALL THANKS TO THEE!
THOU DIDST BESTOW THIS HAPPINESS UPON ME!
I THANK THEE!
I THANK THEE!
I THANK THEE!
I THANK THEE!
…
SHPPTT
BA-BAM
Wow... I feel a lot better.
Thanks, Shinobu.
コキ
KRAK
Mmh...
AHEM
Well.
Ah, yes.
Now I recall.
Aye.
I've no choice—I cannot defy you as your servant.
Whatever you wish...
Hm?
What're you talking about?



Give me thine orders, my master.
Your precious bespectacled class president is in trouble.
Hanekawa.
I wonder…
YANAGI MUSIC CLASSROOM
Children to adults!
Now accepting students!
TEL 1122-3300
Haircuts
Adults
Children
Perms
1500円
700円
ASAHI BEAUTICIAN
RESTAURANT
AJI-YOSHI
Looking for a Room?
Naoetsu Realty
Come on in!
Public House
SACHI
All courses 2 hours
All courses 2 hours
6+ dishes
Kushinada Forestry

OHMORI BUTCHERS
OHMORI BUTCHERS
100 YEN SHOP
That genius who knows every-thing.
What would she say to me?
SPLOOSH

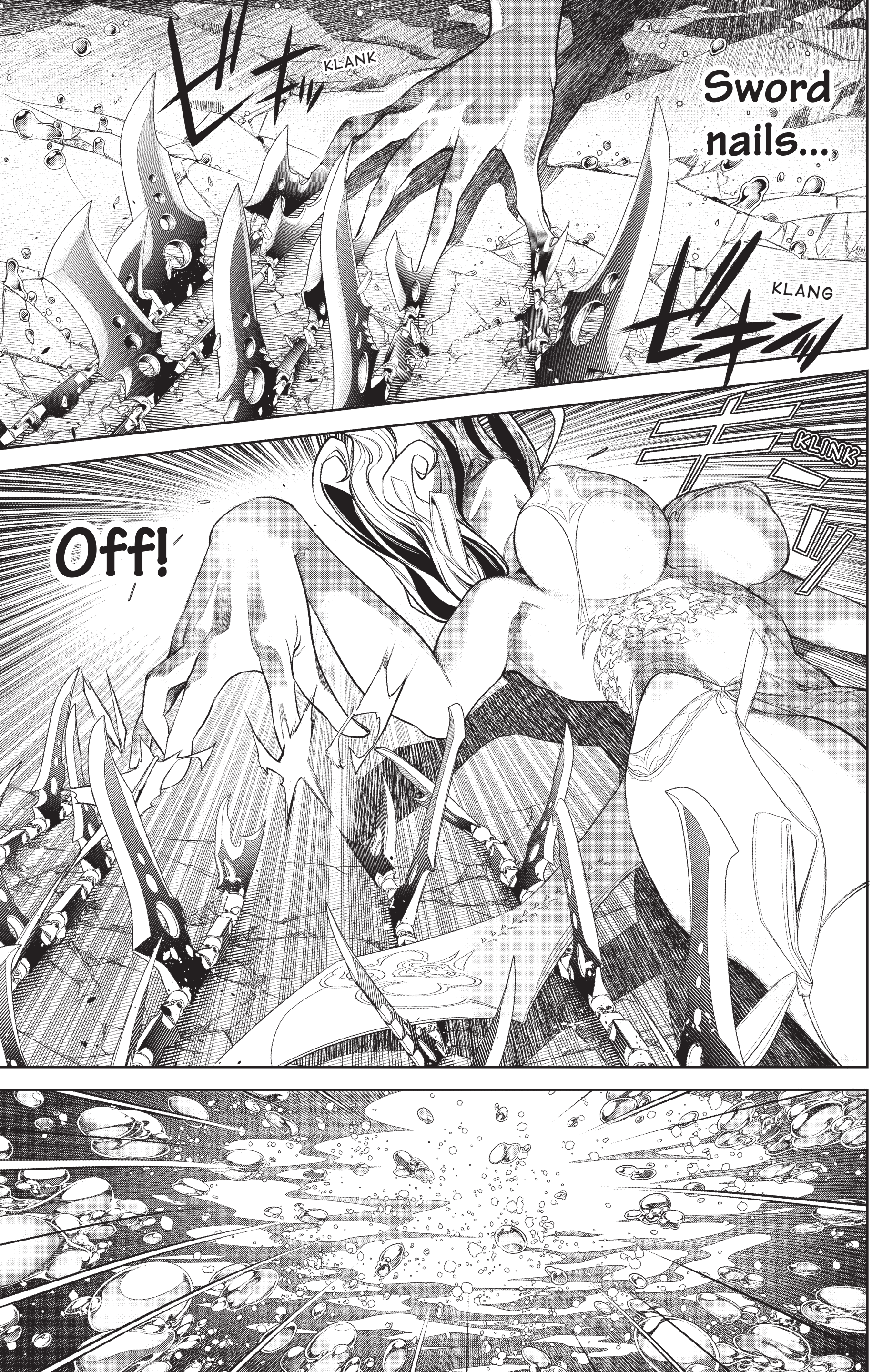
BWOOF
BOOM
...Gah
...!
GWOOM
FZZZZSH

SBLOOP
Now die there.
TWITCH
TWITCH
Just five minutes. It'll be over then.
Burn that woman, and your misery will also end.

Miserable... Huh.
My myaster never nyew that she was miserable.
But nyow...
BA-KRAK
She nyohs!
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL

GA-KLANG
Ngh ?!
KRAKKL
So this was your plan from the start...?! You came here— to drag me into the water, where I cannot use fire?!
KREEEAK

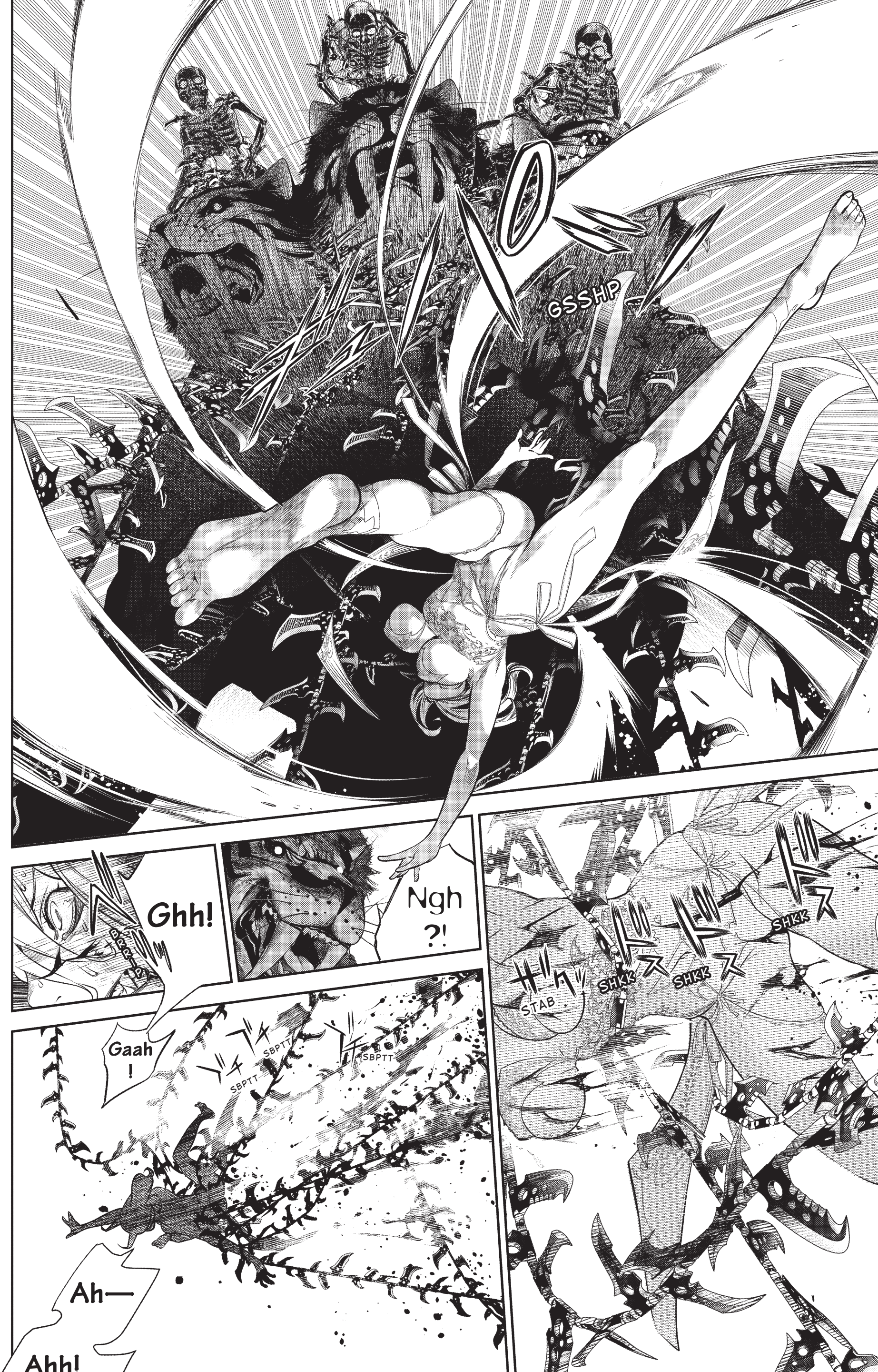
Getting involved with that vampire caused my myaster to find out she's miserable.
She was faced with that reality.
KREAK
KREAK
KREEEAK
But making someone she loves sad by burning up someone important to him...
...seems a lot more miserable to me.
Staying miserable is nyothing more than laziness, anyway.
It's cowardly to nyot fight for happiness.



ビギッ
KLANK
Sword nails...
ビギンッ
KLANG
キーンッ
KLINK
Off!

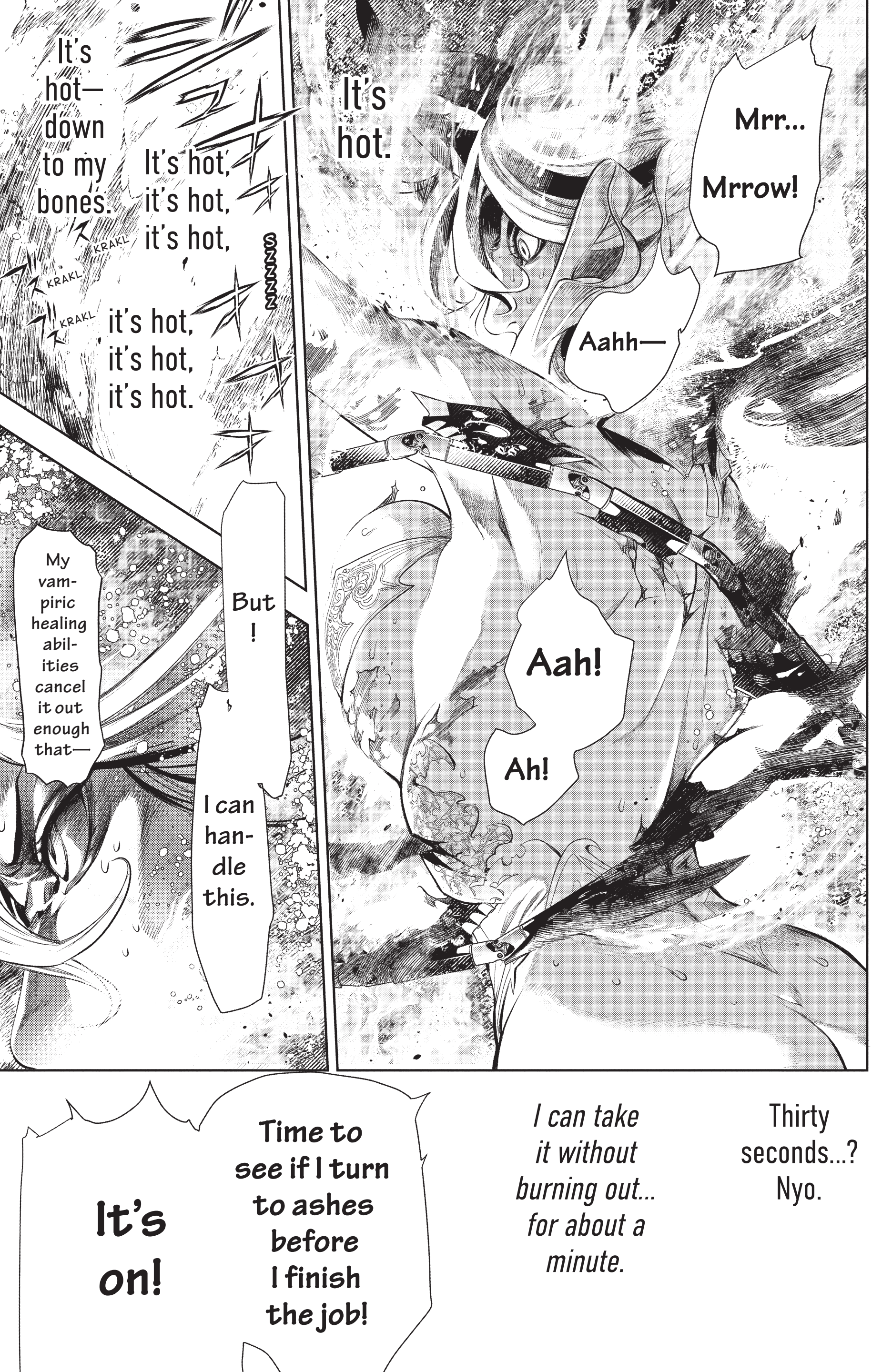
SBLOOP
BHAAKH!
It's nyot like I became one of Heart-Under-Blade's firsthand thralls.
HAKK! HAKK!
E-Even an aberration...
...can die if it can't breathe, huh.
...I wonder.
How many more times can I die...?
I should consider my immortality as nyothing more than a little bonus...
In fact.
I don't have anything nyear their unbelievable healing abilities...

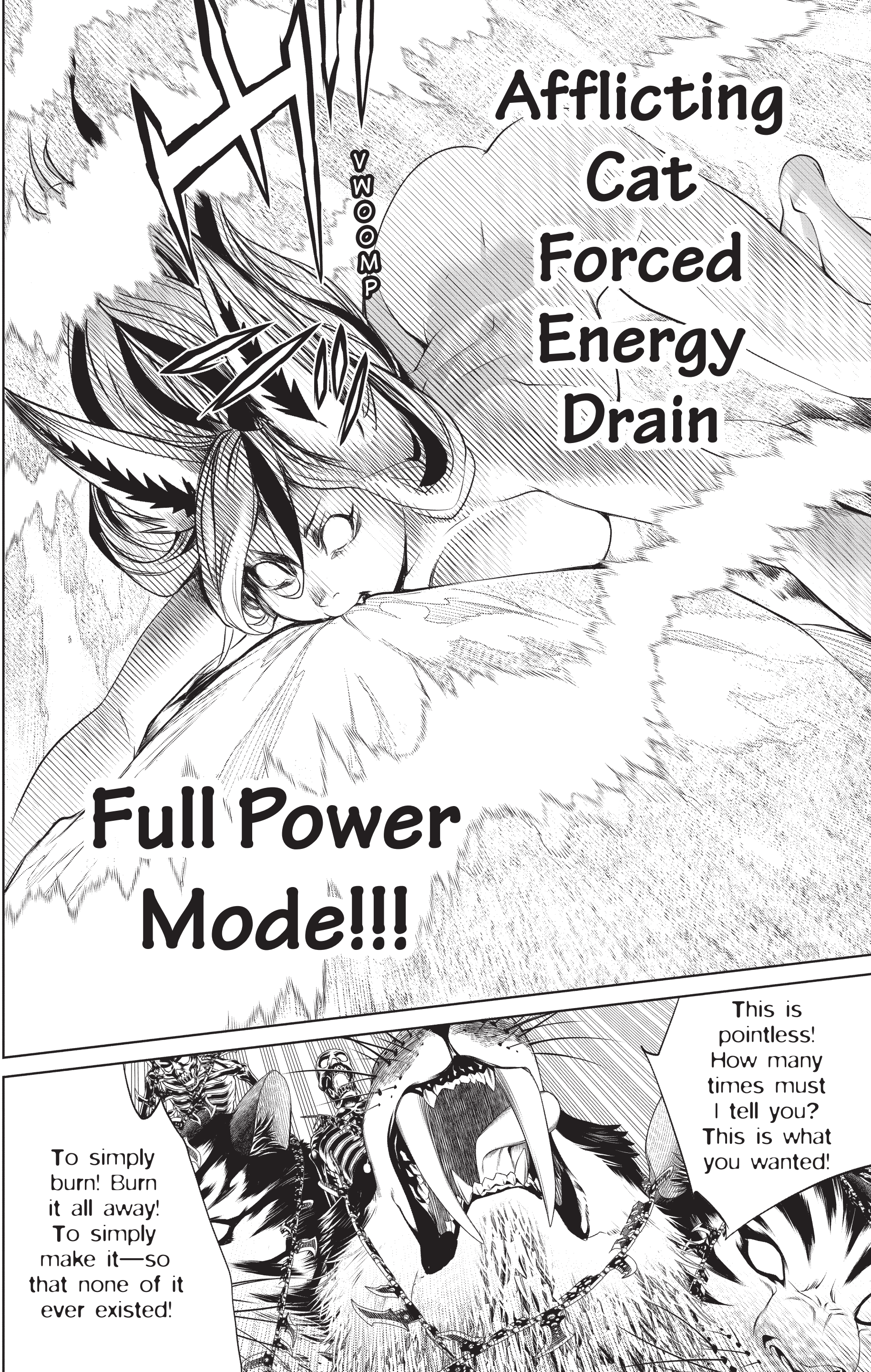
Do not force yourself, cat.
GSSSH
KREAK
KREEEAK
All beasts are fated to fear fire.
Luring me into water is but a false tactic.
I'm only—running away.
To somewhere safe.
To a place where
I won't be hurt.


GSSHP
Ngh ?!
Ghh!
BRRIP
SHKK
SHKK
SHKK
STAB
SBPTT
SBPTT
SBPTT
Gaah !
Ah—
Ahh!

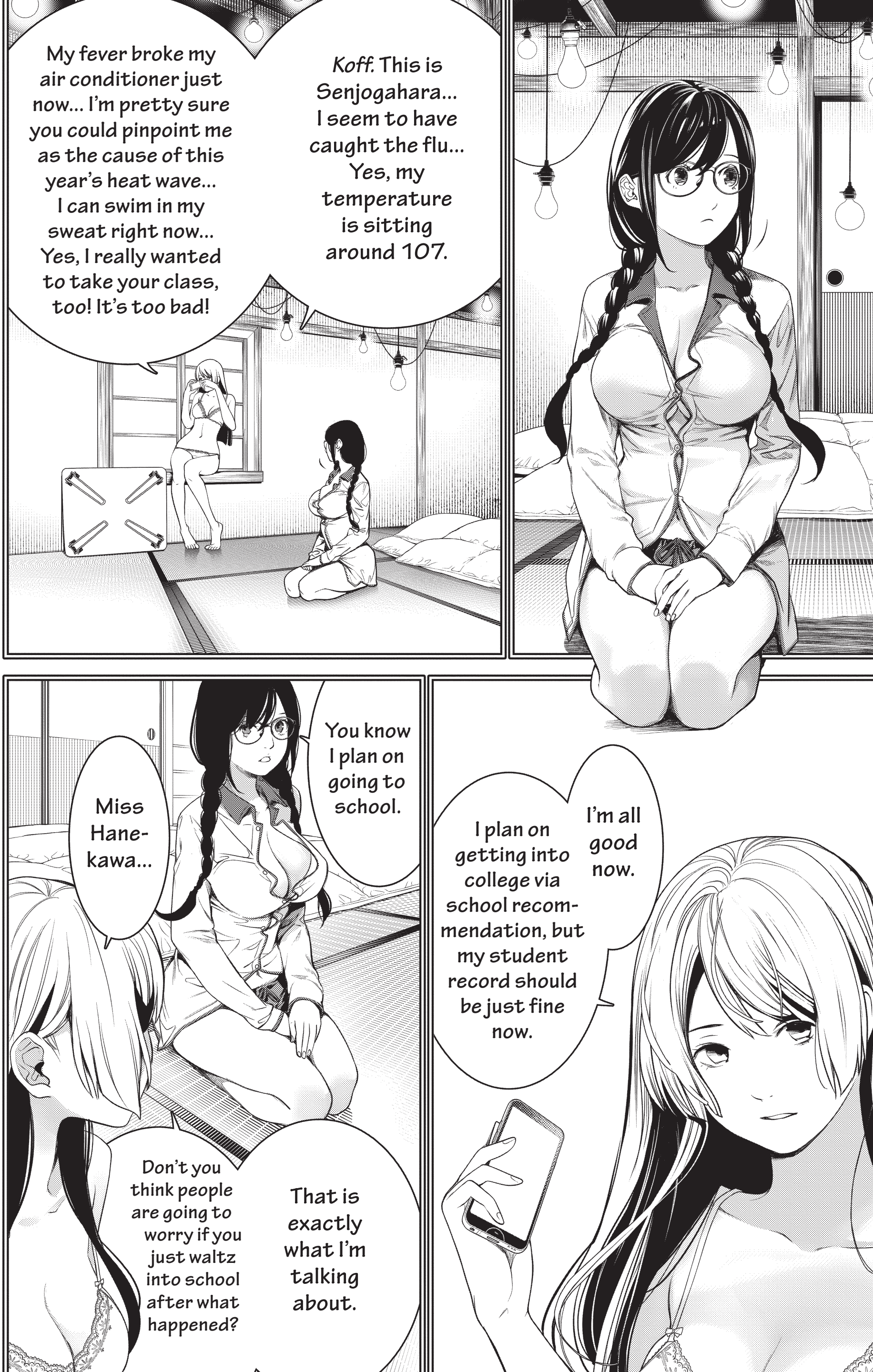
THWAP
GRRRCH
...My blind spot!
GRRK
GRRK
Did you think I used my nails to pin you to the bottom of the river?
Nyo!
They're *to pin me to you!*

BWOOF
Hyagh...
Why do something so unreasonable?
So unwarranted. So unproductive.


Mrr...
Mrrow!
It's hot.
Aahh—
Aah!
Ah!
It's hot—down to my bones.
It's hot, it's hot, it's hot,
it's hot, it's hot, it's hot.
SZZZZ
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
But!
I can handle this.
My vampiric healing abilities cancel it out enough that—
Thirty seconds...? Nyo.
I can take it without burning out... for about a minute.
Time to see if I turn to ashes before I finish the job!
It's on!

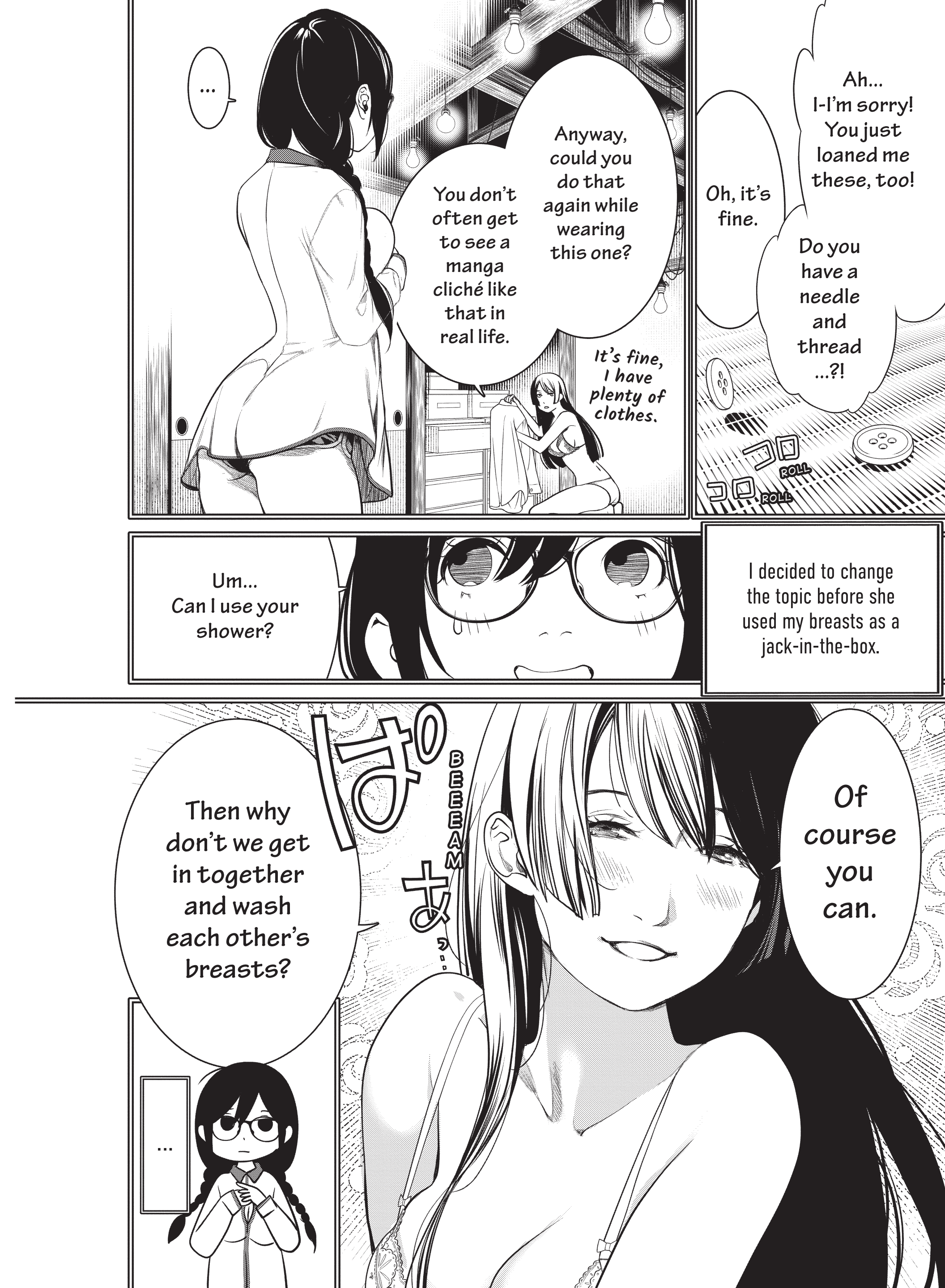

VWOOMP
Afflicting Cat Forced Energy Drain
Full Power Mode!!!
This is pointless! How many times must I tell you? This is what you wanted!
To simply burn! Burn it all away! To simply make it—so that none of it ever existed!

NYO!
There's something you're ignyoring!
My myaster *withstood that jealousy*—and sealed you away for a month. Those feelings—are just as true!
You nyoh that's why I...
You know that's why I...
民倉荘
APARTMENTS
Why I...
One week earlier
Koff.
Koff.
Oh.
Hello? Hoshina-sensei?



Koff. This is Senjogahara... I seem to have caught the flu... Yes, my temperature is sitting around 107.
My fever broke my air conditioner just now... I'm pretty sure you could pinpoint me as the cause of this year's heat wave... I can swim in my sweat right now... Yes, I really wanted to take your class, too! It's too bad!
I'm all good now.
I plan on getting into college via school recom-mendation, but my student record should be just fine now.
You know I plan on going to school.
Miss Hane-kawa...
That is exactly what I'm talking about.
Don't you think people are going to worry if you just waltz into school after what happened?

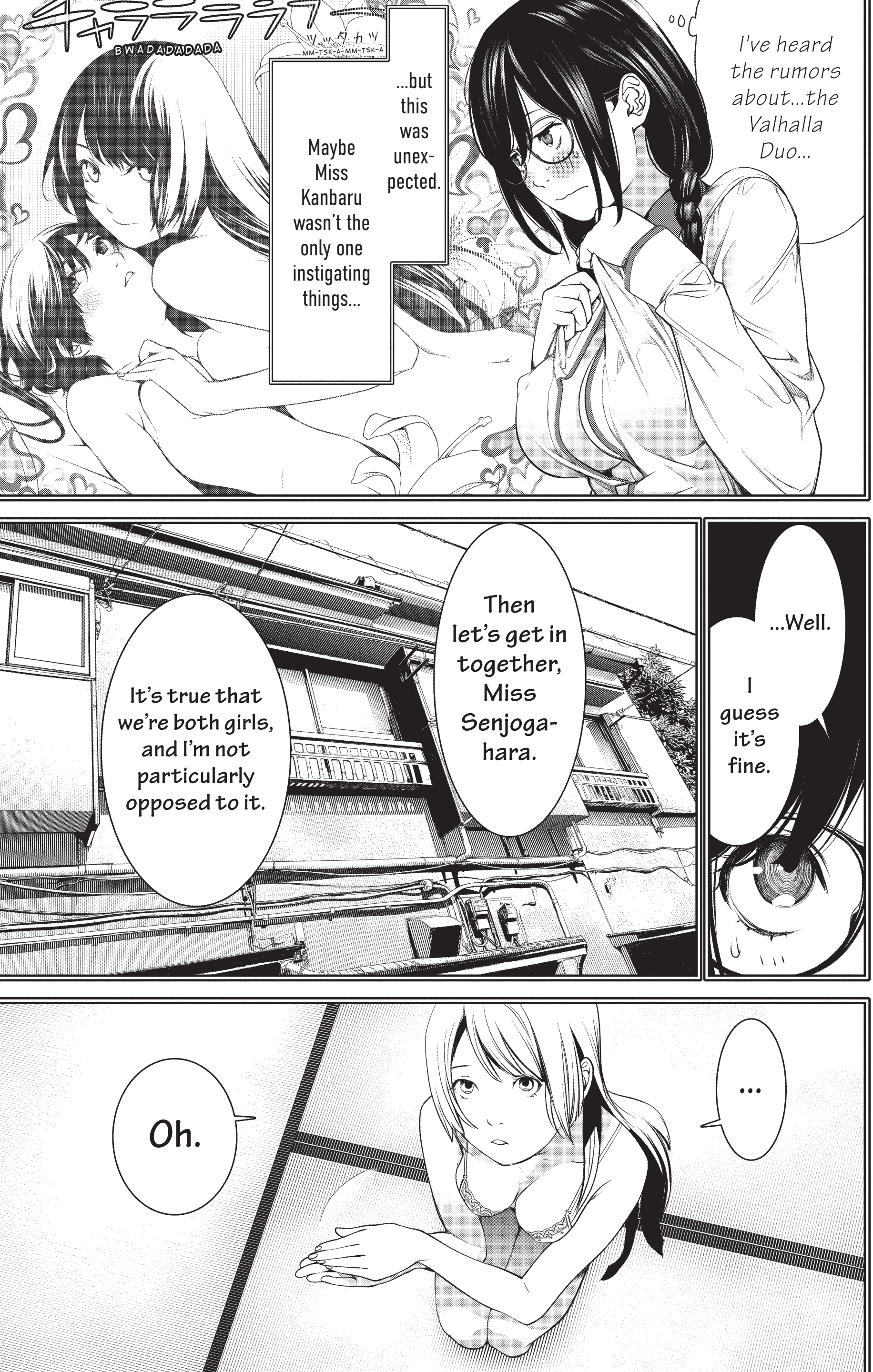
JUST TAKE THE DAMN DAY OFF!
BA
BA-BAM
IF YOU INSIST ON GOING TO SCHOOL, YOU'LL HAVE TO DEFEAT ME FIRST! KA-SHINK!
I won't go into the details.
But circum-stances have made it so I can't go back to my home.
Oh... Sorry.
These pajamas are a little tight, so...
...
Miss Hanekawa. Could you please stand over there?
Yes... That's it.
HUP! AT-TEN-SHUN!
I was taken to Miss Senjoga-hara's home just as I tried to sleep out in the street.
Maybe you should get dressed.
I know we're girls, but where am I sup-posed to look?
Huh?
And you're saying that with your boobs just hanging out there?
BWOING
TWING
TWING
TWING

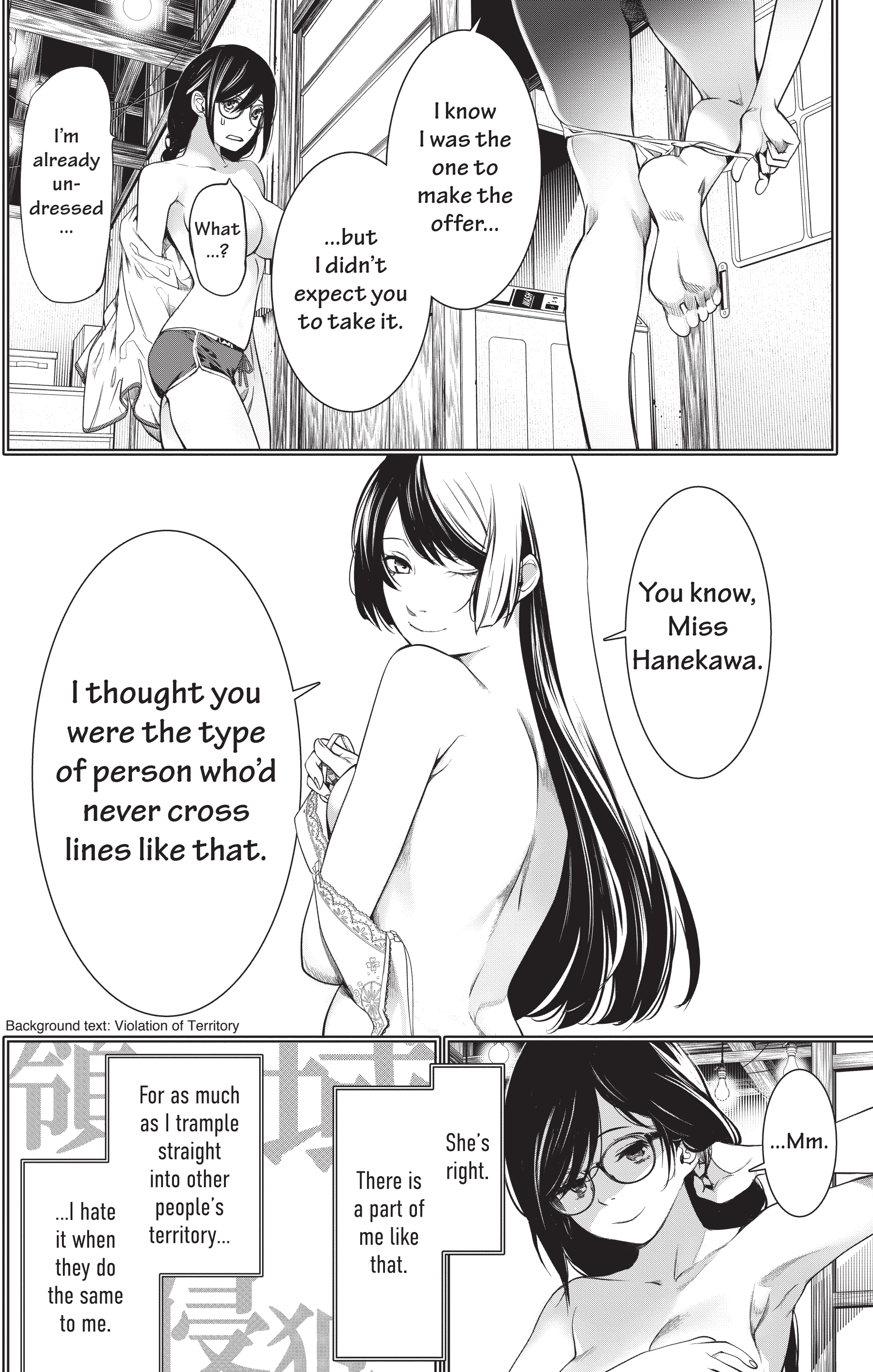


Ah... I-I'm sorry! You just loaned me these, too!
Oh, it's fine.
Do you have a needle and thread ...?!
コロ ROLL
コロ ROLL
Anyway, could you do that again while wearing this one?
You don't often get to see a manga cliché like that in real life.
It's fine, I have plenty of clothes.
...
I decided to change the topic before she used my breasts as a jack-in-the-box.
Um... Can I use your shower?
Of course you can.
ぱぁっ BEEEEAM
Then why don't we get in together and wash each other's breasts?
...

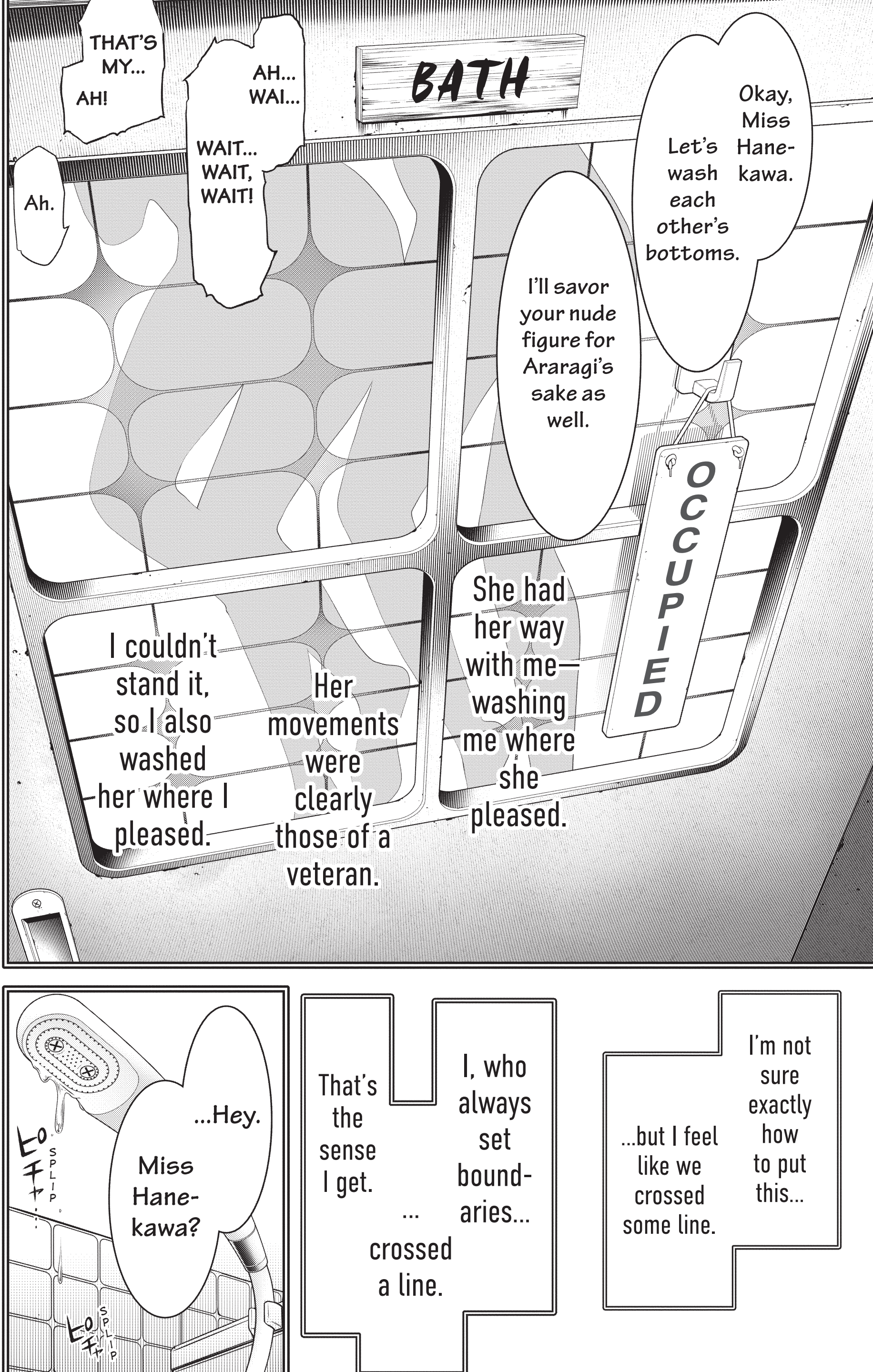
...No, no, no. Hold on a second, Miss Senjo-gahara.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT. WE'RE BOTH GIRLS.
Hold on a lot longer than a second.
I'm getting a bad feeling about this.
OH, PLEASE. I'M NOT PLANNING ANYTHING UNDER-HANDED.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T TRUST YOUR FRIEND?
PLEASE, MISS HANE-KAWA!
SHHK
PLEASE TAKE A SHOWER WITH ME!
SHHK
SHHK
SHHK

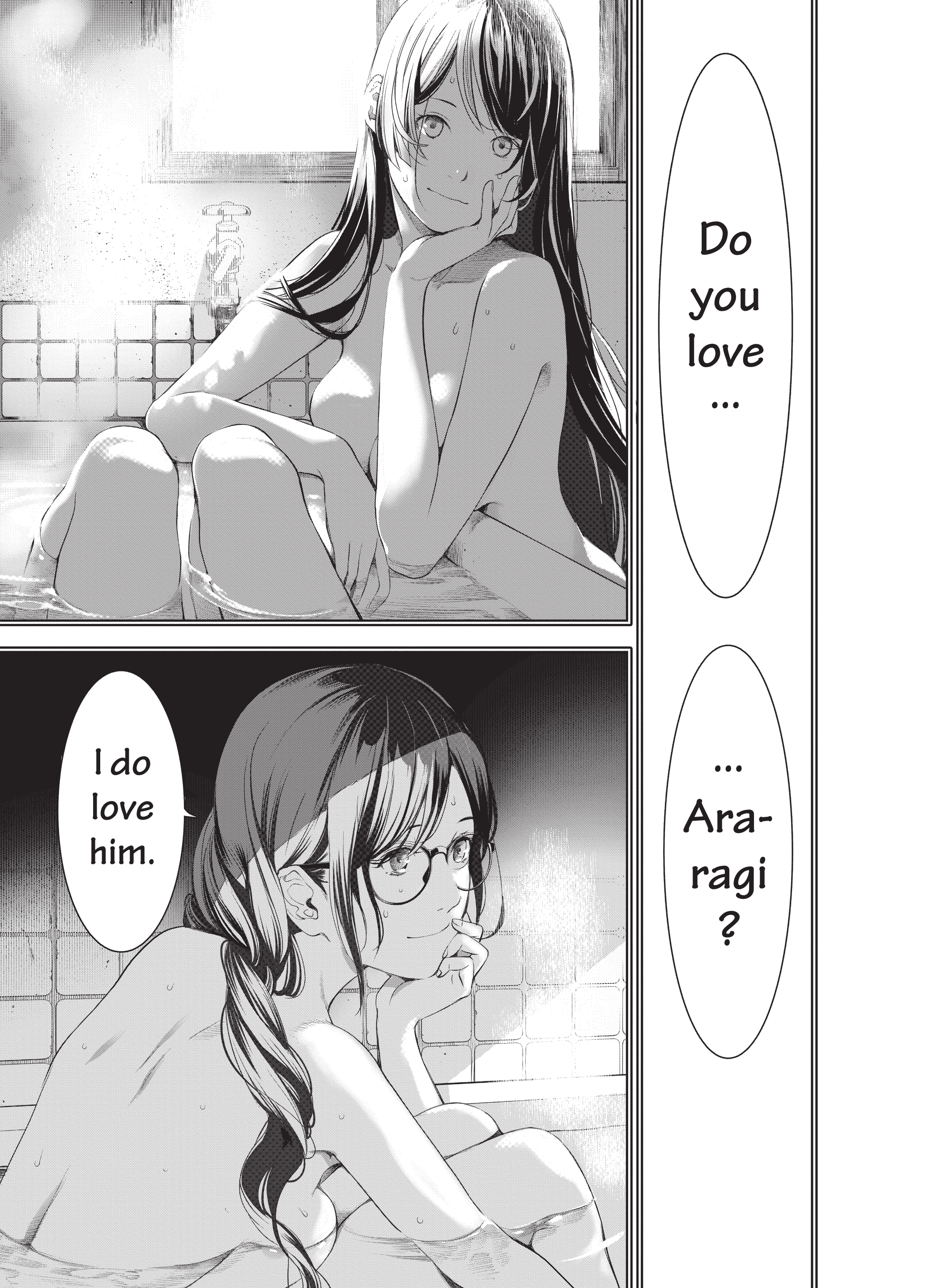
Don't get the wrong idea. I'm not like Kanbaru.
I just want to see you in the nude. I don't intend to do anything more.
...
SHHK
SHHK
Miss Senjogahara was starting to take on some new character traits.
PLEASE!
PLEASE!
I'M BEG-GING YOU!
DART
SCURRY
CREEP
BOOM
Ah!
She's backed me into the bath...
This is so cutting-edge...
Will anyone be able to keep up with these new character traits...?
While in school, she continues to wear the same blank expression in front of everyone,
but I guess this means she returned to her "normal" self after starting to date Araragi...?

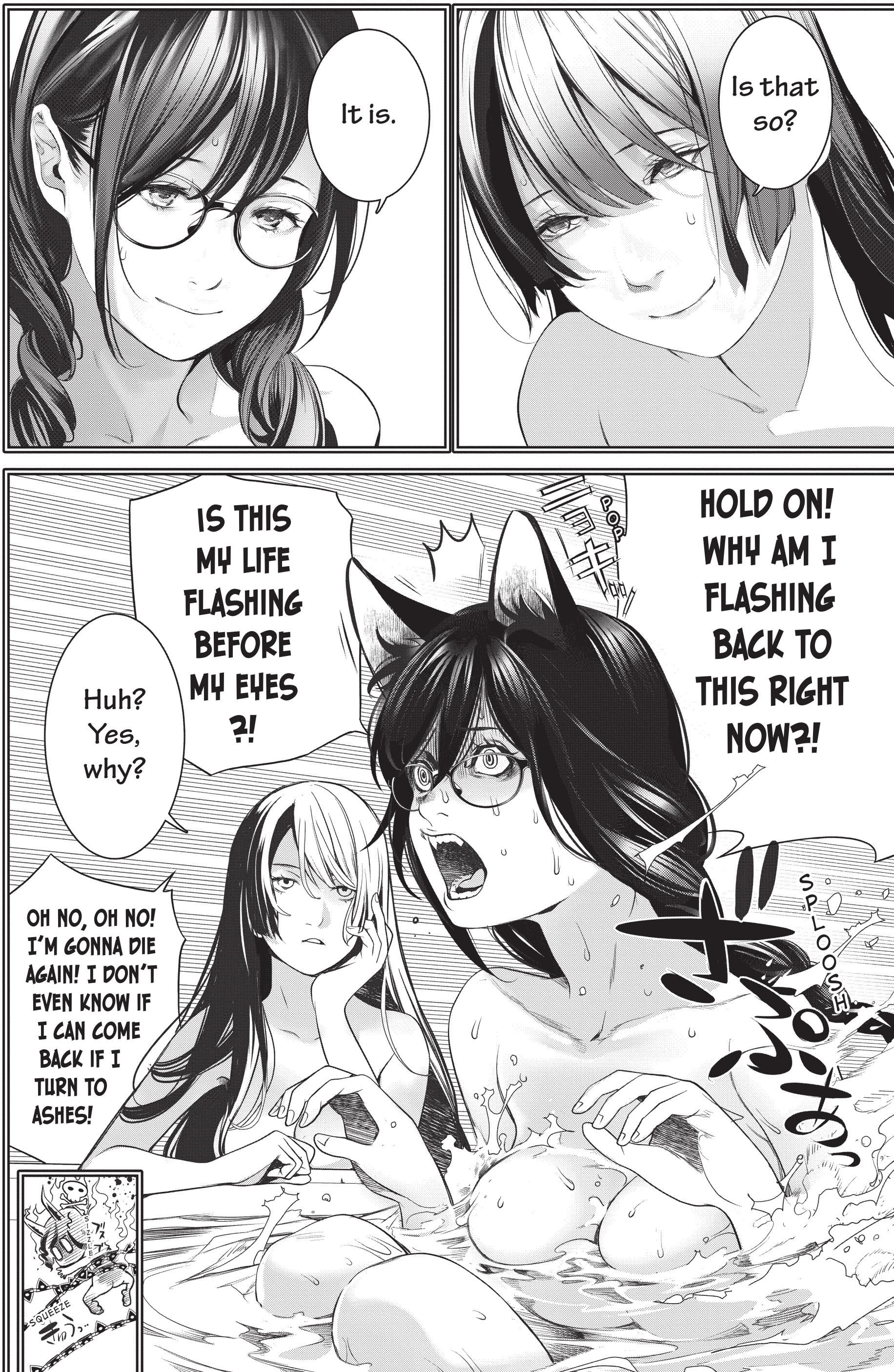

BWADADADADA
MM-TSK-A-MM-TSK-A
I've heard the rumors about...the Valhalla Duo...
...but this was unexpected.
Maybe Miss Kanbaru wasn't the only one instigating things...
...Well.
I guess it's fine.
Then let's get in together, Miss Senjoga-hara.
It's true that we're both girls, and I'm not particularly opposed to it.
...
Oh.


I know I was the one to make the offer...
...but I didn't expect you to take it.
What ...?
I'm already un-dressed ...
You know, Miss Hanekawa.
I thought you were the type of person who'd never cross lines like that.
Background text: Violation of Territory
...Mm.
She's right.
There is a part of me like that.
For as much as I trample straight into other people's territory...
...I hate it when they do the same to me.

I think that's exactly what happened in my relationship with Araragi.
Which is probably why...
...it ended up like this...
PWING♪
It's from Araragi.
Looks like he's carrying out some humanitarian aid again.
Not coming back for a while. Dot worry.
SMS
He didn't even have time to fix the spelling...
Same as always.
...You're really amazing.
I truly...
...feel that way.
I'd never be able to sit there and wait like this if I was her.
RTTL
Even now—the fact that Araragi's girlfriend is right in front of me is the *only reason*...
...that I'm just barely able to hold back the urge to sprint over to Araragi, even while buck naked.


BATH
Okay, Miss Hanekawa. Let's wash each other's bottoms.
I'll savor your nude figure for Araragi's sake as well.
AH... WAI... WAIT... WAIT, WAIT!
THAT'S MY... AH!
Ah.
OCCUPIED
She had her way with me—washing me where she pleased.
Her movements were clearly those of a veteran.
I couldn't stand it, so I also washed her where I pleased.
I'm not sure exactly how to put this...
...but I feel like we crossed some line.
I, who always set boundaries...
...crossed a line.
That's the sense I get.
...Hey.
Miss Hanekawa?
SPLIP
SPLIP

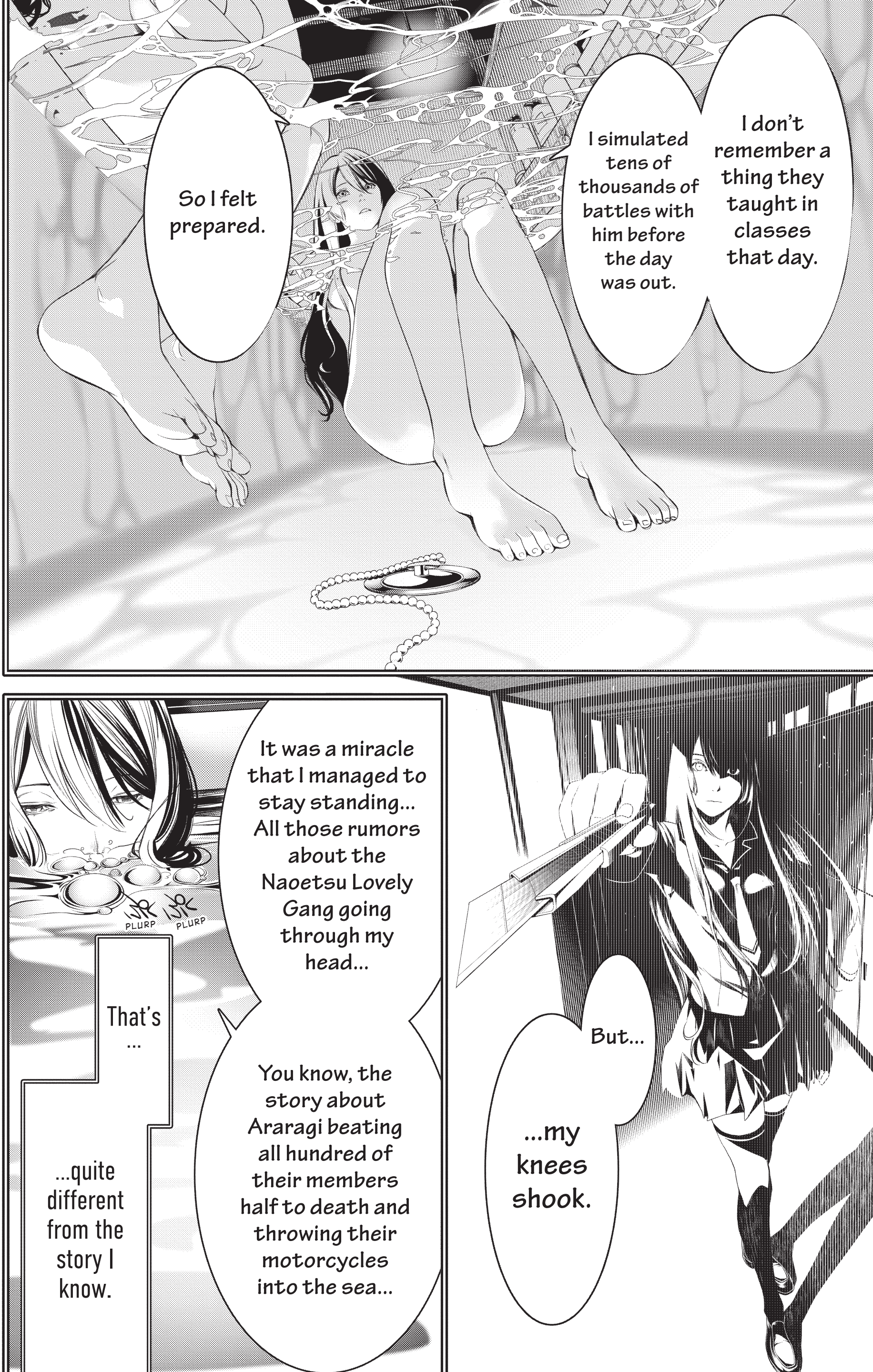

Do you love ...
... Ara-ragi?
I do love him.


Is that so?
It is.
POP
HOLD ON! WHY AM I FLASHING BACK TO THIS RIGHT NOW?!
IS THIS MY LIFE FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES?!
Huh? Yes, why?
SPLOOSH
OH NO, OH NO! I'M GONNA DIE AGAIN! I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I CAN COME BACK IF I TURN TO ASHES!
SIZZLE
SQUEEZE

BAKEMONOGATARI

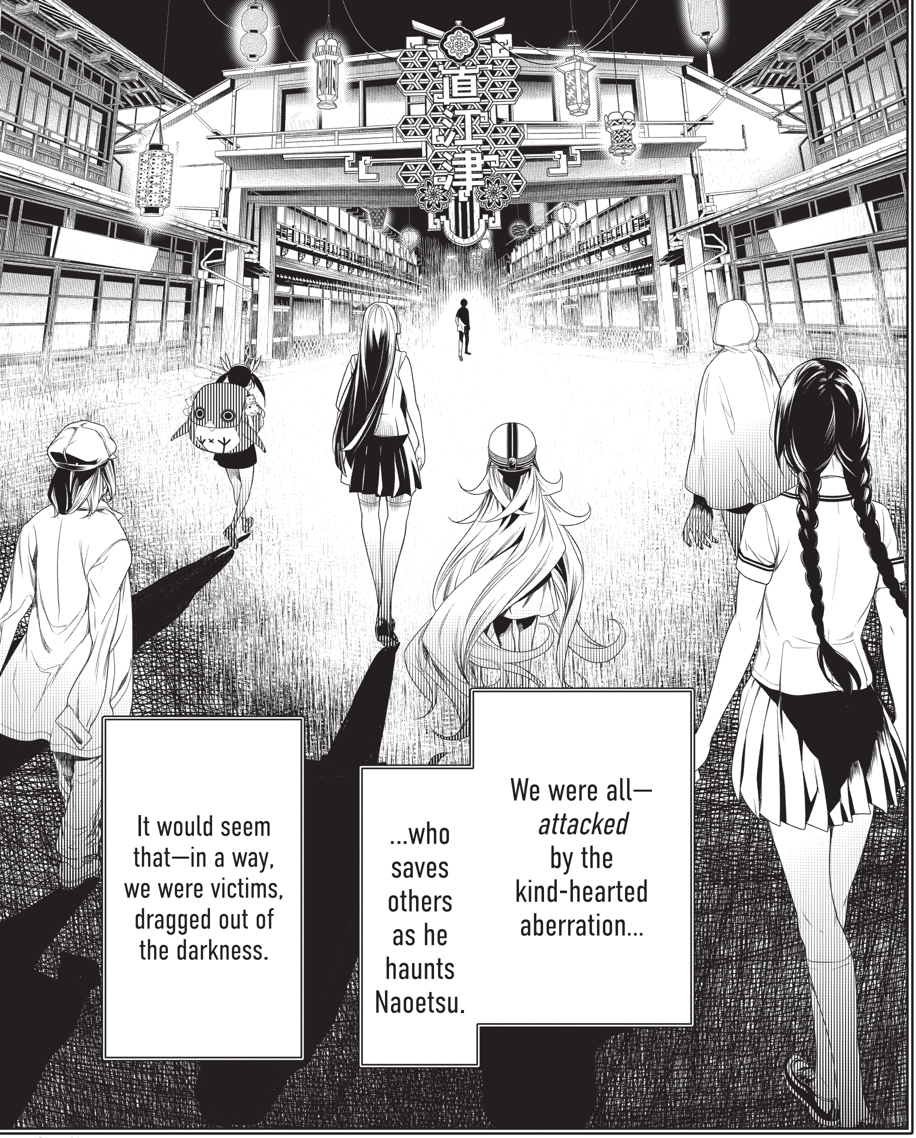
If I'm being honest ...
...even before spring break, I knew about—
Araragi.
I don't know everything, but I did know about him.
About Araragi.
As if he didn't notice the wall of girls who'd appear by the class-room door...
...every time he made one of his rare appear-ances at school.
He's famous, after all.
Even though he doesn't seem to realize it one bit.

And it seems that Miss Senjo-gahara was no different.
Well, of course ...
IT WAS LIKE— THERE HE IS!
I really did feel that way, if I'm being honest.
But at first, fear was the only thing I felt.
Uh-huh.
Uh-huh.
I mean... we're talking about *the* Araragi, right?
Of all people, why was he the one below me when I slipped on a banana peel.
That's how I felt back then.

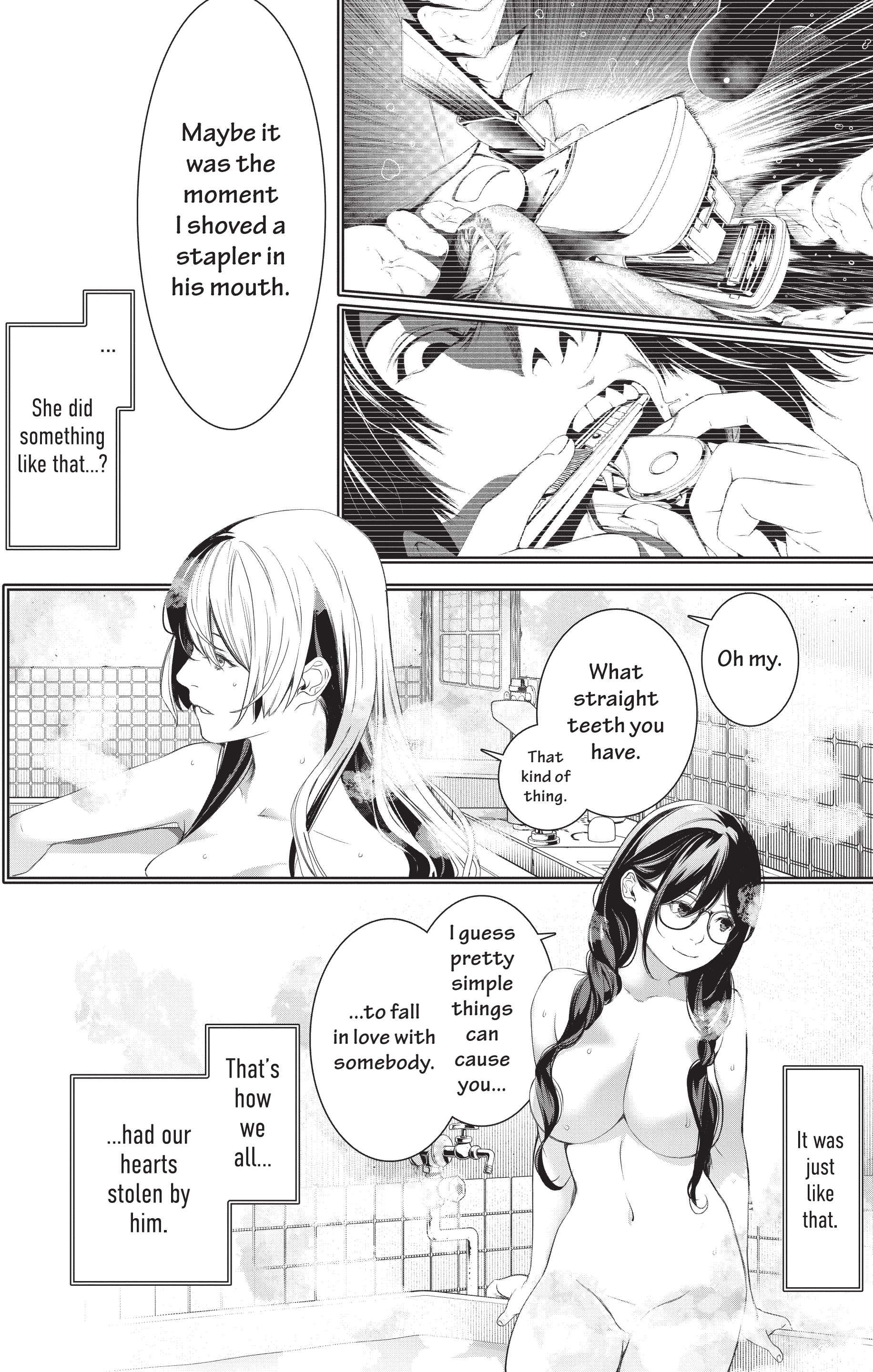

I don't remember a thing they taught in classes that day.
I simulated tens of thousands of battles with him before the day was out.
So I felt prepared.
But...
...my knees shook.
It was a miracle that I managed to stay standing... All those rumors about the Naoetsu Lovely Gang going through my head...
You know, the story about Araragi beating all hundred of their members half to death and throwing their motorcycles into the sea...
PLURP
PLURP
That's...
...quite different from the story I know.

***The above is an illustration based on gossip.**

Araragi was doing what he always does.
I imagine—
he was just saving someone in trouble.
Saving people is just a normal part of his life.
His form changes as words pass from person to person, mouth to mouth.
It's really like he's some sort of demon with horns and fangs.
Well, maybe it was never that extreme...
RUMOR
RUMOR
RUMOR
RUMOR
RUMOR
RUMOR
In a way— it's like being a kind of aberration.
That's right.
Now that I think about it.



Sign: Naoetsu


Maybe it was the moment I shoved a stapler in his mouth.
...
She did something like that...?
Oh my.
What straight teeth you have.
That kind of thing.
I guess pretty simple things can cause you...
...to fall in love with somebody.
It was just like that.
That's how we all...
...had our hearts stolen by him.

Well— in my case...
It was during— spring break.
But I will someday.
...I might need Araragi's consent to tell you.
He may have been attacked by a vampire...
I'll hold you to that, then.
...but he attacked us without even feeding on us.
Really, what an awful aberration.
And he could have borne witness to this glorious sight if he was here now... what a foolish man.
No, I wouldn't bathe with Araragi.
Ah, yes. That's right.
So much has happened to him over these past few months. I wonder if he's at the stage where nude bodies don't even excite him anymore.
Hm?
The "stage"?

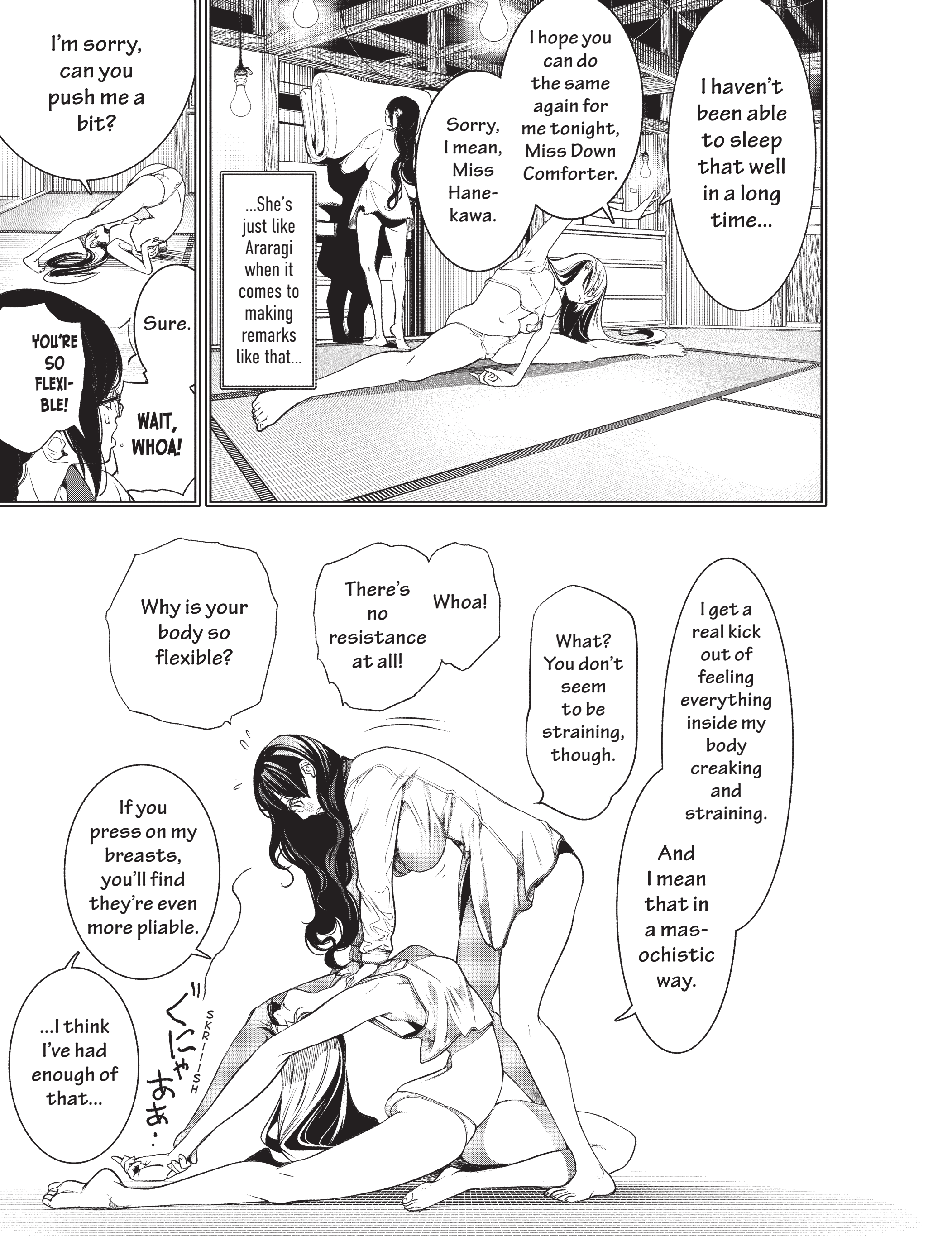
Listen up, you two. Yes, my heart does start pounding just looking at a woman in a skirt.
But I don't necessarily want to see what's under it. In fact, just getting to see the way her skirt sways and flutters in the wind is more than enough.
Compared to the skirt itself, what's under it is just icing on the cake. In fact, I might even look away if I saw under a girl's skirt.
...I... don't know.
...
From a girl's perspective...
...you can't really defend yourself against a gaze like that...
And so,
like that...
...I... don't know.
This seems pretty late-stage...

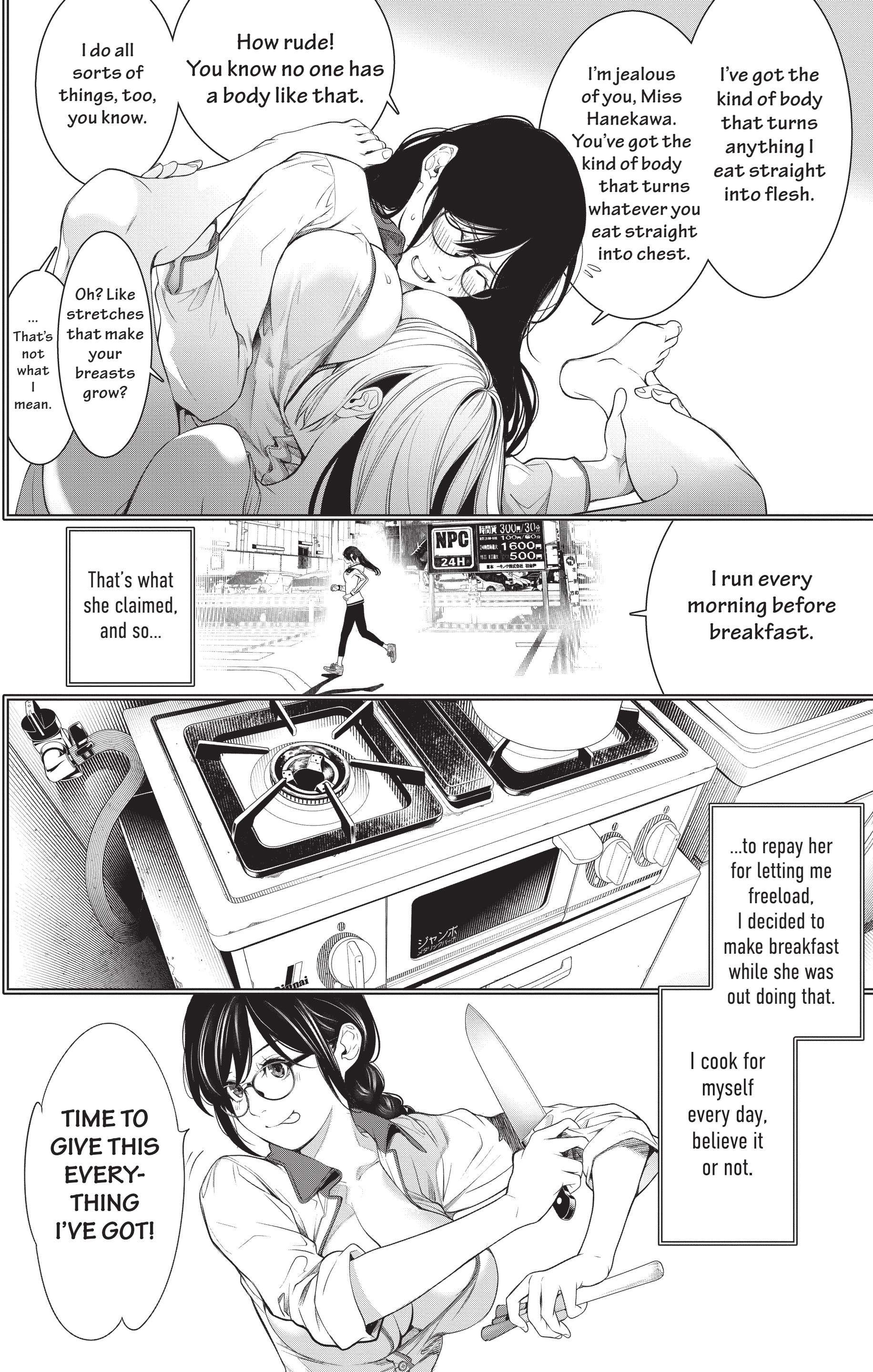
I—
"I" was burned ...
...and died many times over.
And between the time I was reborn and burned once more...
...my life was flashing before my eyes in a dream.
I forcefully drained the Tyrannical Tiger's energy...
...re-stored myself with that pow-er—and died again.
EQUIPMENT
SKETCHY UNDIES

Nyow that's what I call...
...a down-and-dirty catfight.
I caused so much trouble...
...for the Afflicting Cat.

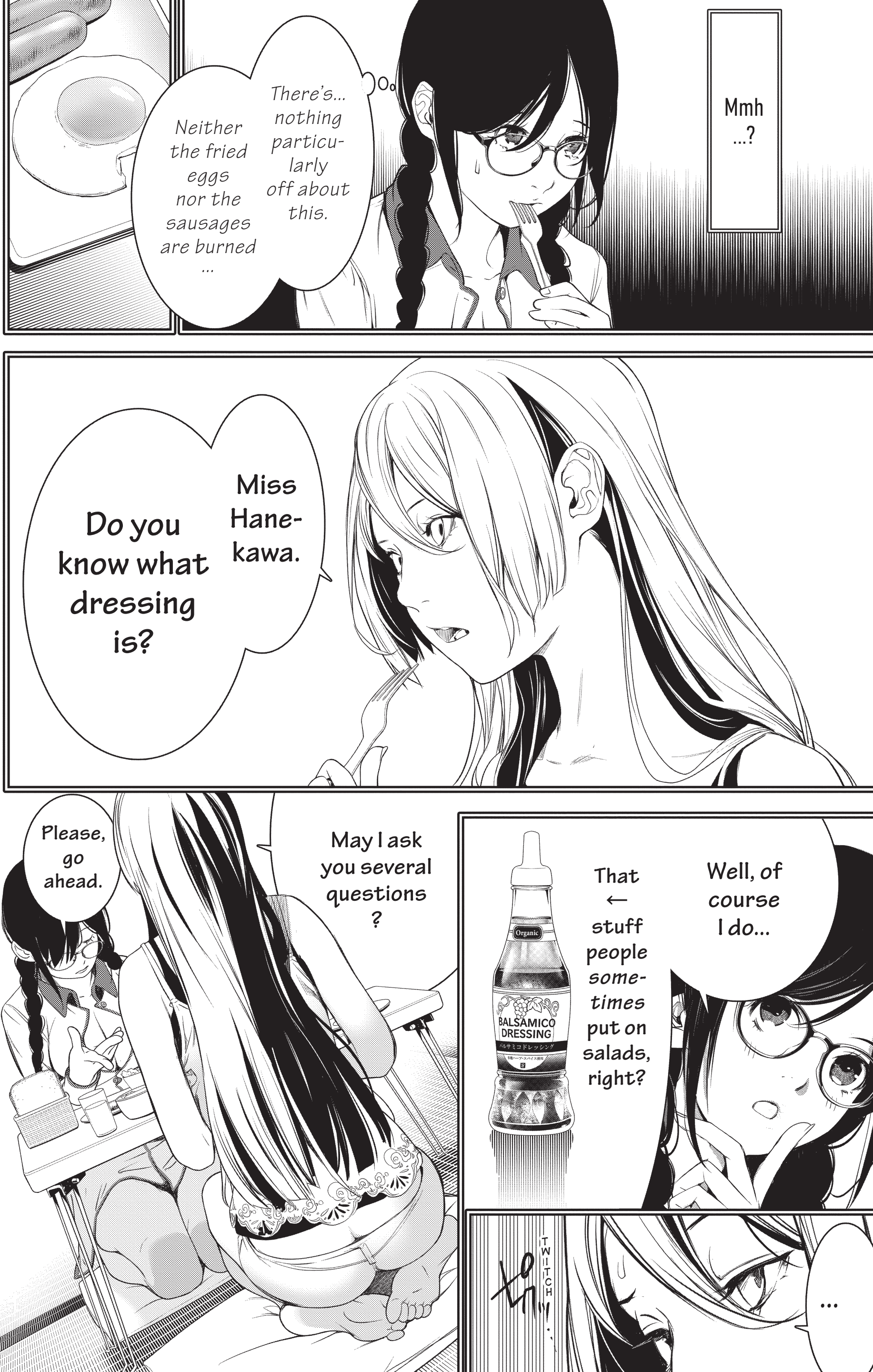
So pretty...
I guess Araragi...
...must always get views of her sleeping face all to himself.
It's no fair.
My jealousy started to point itself at Araragi instead.
And as I started thinking about these adult matters.
No, maybe not.
I guess they haven't even gone on a date yet, have they.

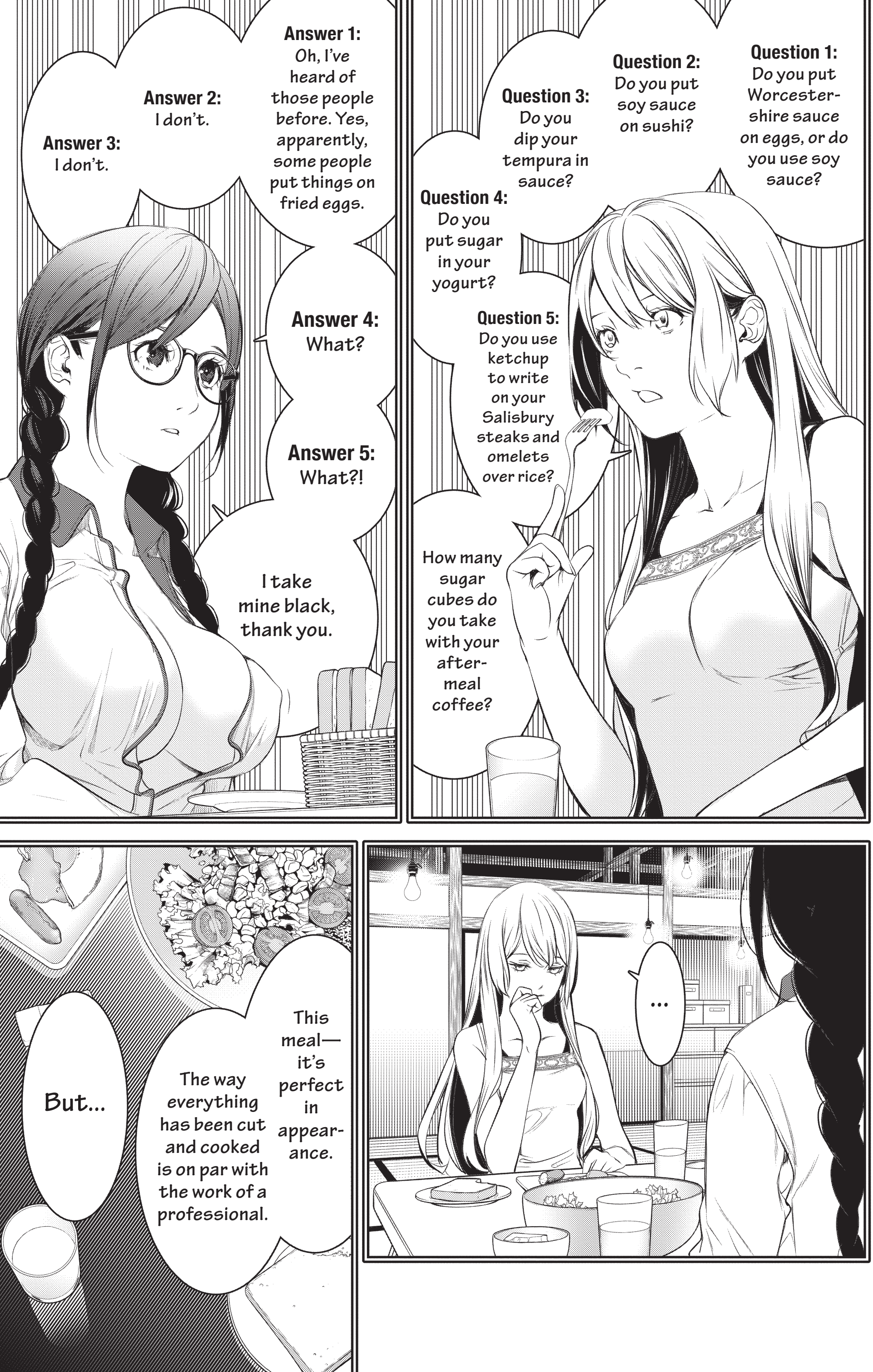
Good morning, Miss Hanekawa.
Good morning, Miss Senjogahara.
I felt my heart race—when I saw her face in peaceful slumber.
And only now did I realize why that was.
Because this experience—of waking up to someone other than a cleaning robot nearby...
...was a first for me.


I haven't been able to sleep that well in a long time...
I hope you can do the same again for me tonight, Miss Down Comforter.
Sorry, I mean, Miss Hanekawa.
...She's just like Araragi when it comes to making remarks like that...
I'm sorry, can you push me a bit?
Sure.
YOU'RE SO FLEXIBLE!
WAIT, WHOA!
I get a real kick out of feeling everything inside my body creaking and straining.
And I mean that in a masochistic way.
What? You don't seem to be straining, though.
Whoa!
There's no resistance at all!
Why is your body so flexible?
If you press on my breasts, you'll find they're even more pliable.
...I think I've had enough of that...
ぐにゃあ..
SKRIIISH

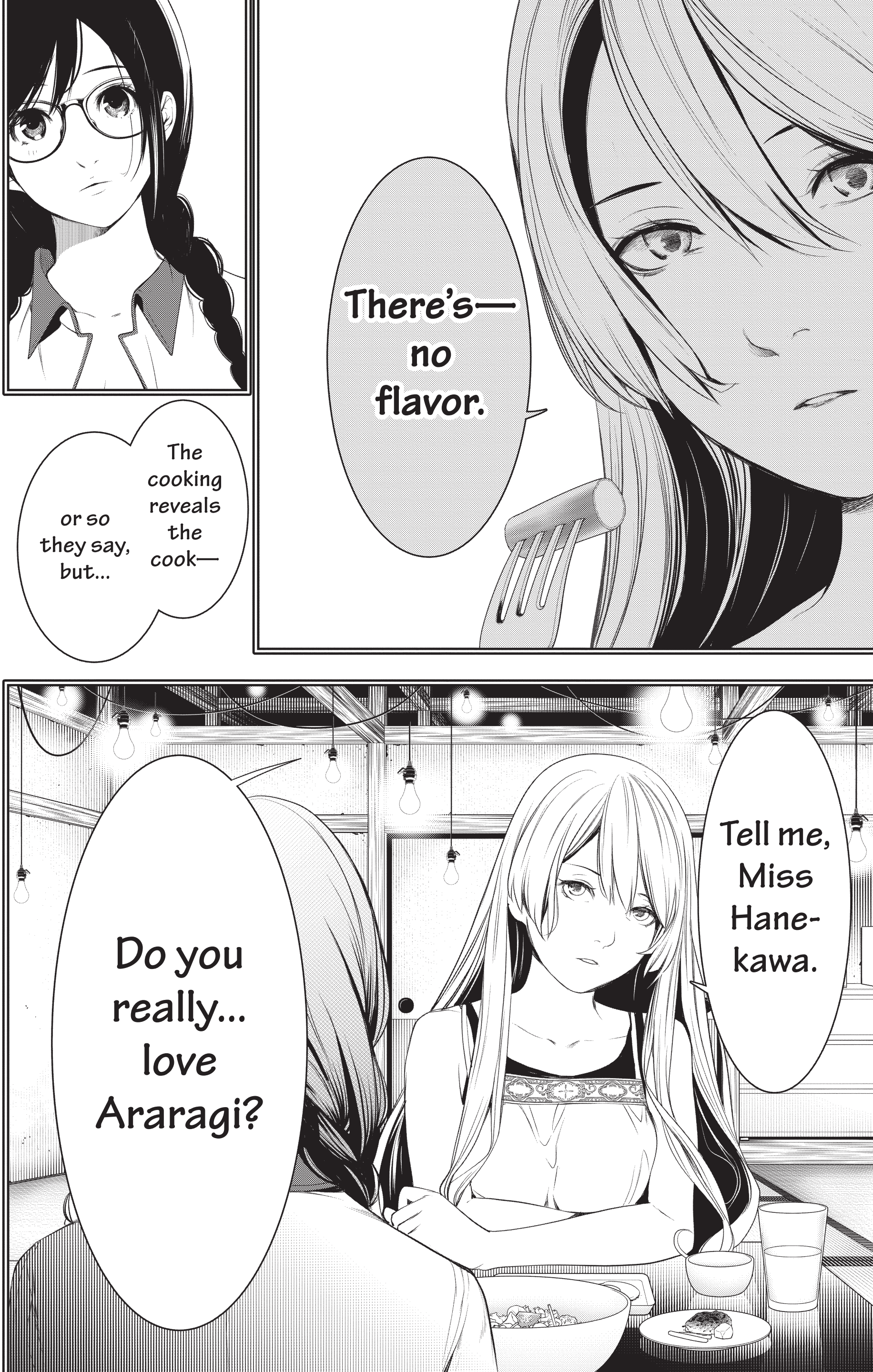

I've got the kind of body that turns anything I eat straight into flesh.
I'm jealous of you, Miss Hanekawa. You've got the kind of body that turns whatever you eat straight into chest.
How rude! You know no one has a body like that.
I do all sorts of things, too, you know.
Oh? Like stretches that make your breasts grow?
... That's not what I mean.
I run *every* morning before breakfast.
NPC
24H
That's what she claimed, and so...
...to repay her for letting me freeload, I decided to make breakfast while she was out doing that.
I cook for myself every day, believe it or not.
TIME TO GIVE THIS EVERY-THING I'VE GOT!

Munch...
...
Munch...
Mmh...
...

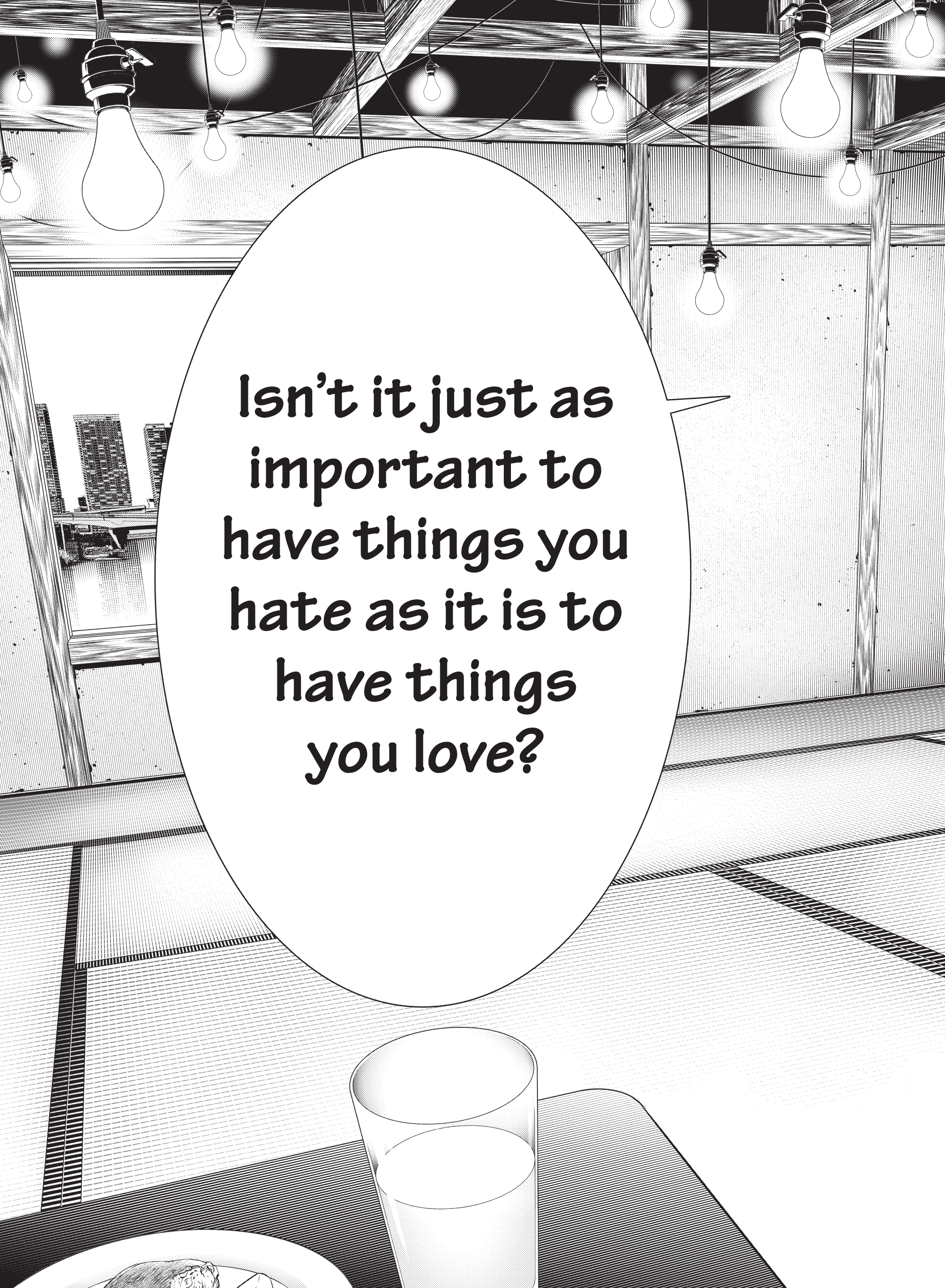

Mmh
...?
There's... nothing particu-larly off about this.
Neither the fried eggs nor the sausages are burned ...
Miss Hane-kawa.
Do you know what dressing is?
Well, of course I do...
That ← stuff people some-times put on salads, right?
Organic
BALSAMICO DRESSING
バルサミコドレッシング
...
TWITCH
May I ask you several questions?
Please, go ahead.



Question 1: Do you put Worcestershire sauce on eggs, or do you use soy sauce?
Question 2: Do you put soy sauce on sushi?
Question 3: Do you dip your tempura in sauce?
Question 4: Do you put sugar in your yogurt?
Question 5: Do you use ketchup to write on your Salisbury steaks and omelets over rice?
How many sugar cubes do you take with your after-meal coffee?
Answer 1: Oh, I've heard of those people before. Yes, apparently, some people put things on fried eggs.
Answer 2: I don't.
Answer 3: I don't.
Answer 4: What?
Answer 5: What?!
I take mine black, thank you.
...
This meal—it's perfect in appearance.
The way everything has been cut and cooked is on par with the work of a professional.
But...


There's—
no flavor.
The cooking reveals the cook—
or so they say, but...
Tell me, Miss Hane-kawa.
Do you really... love Araragi?

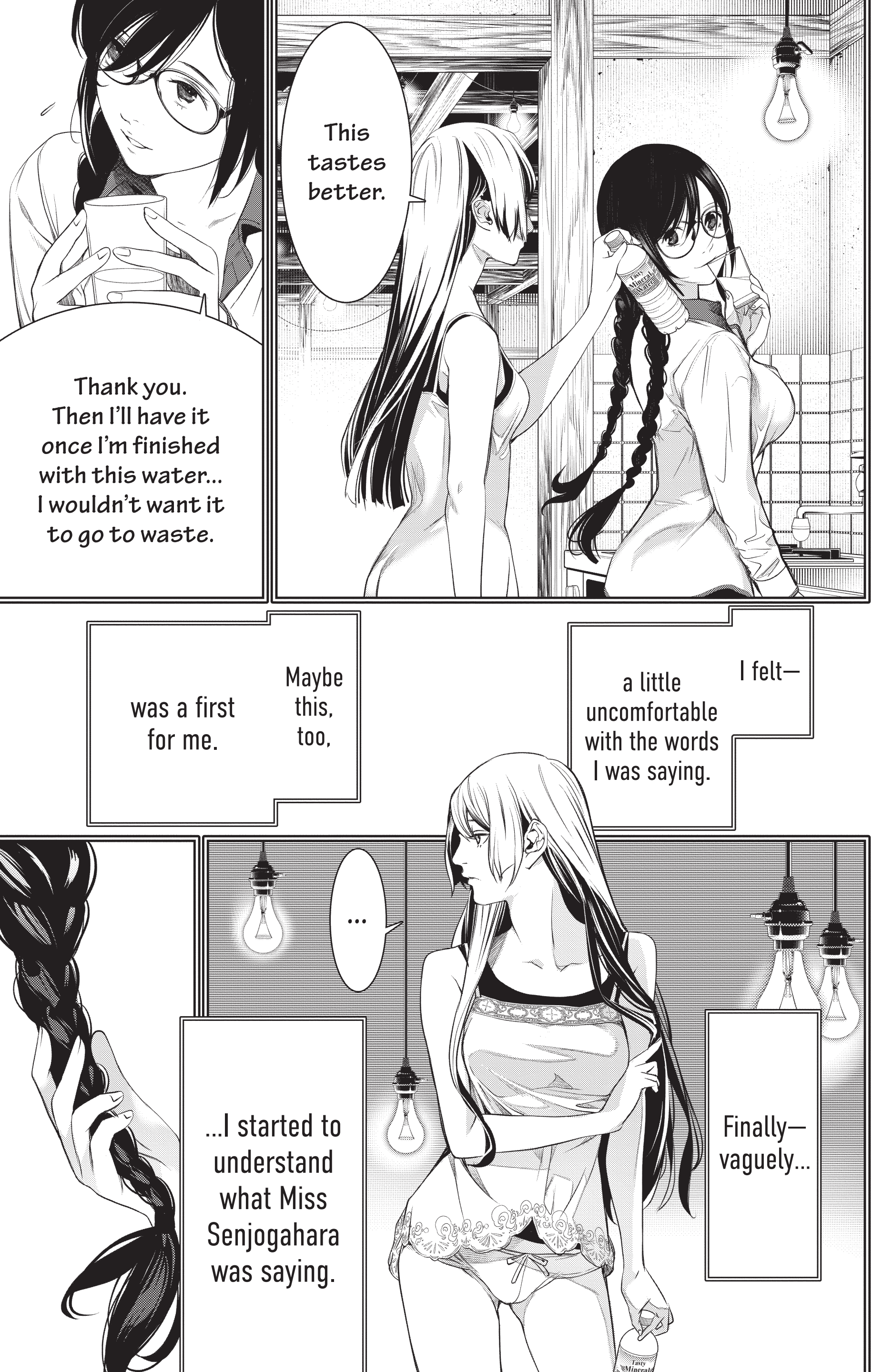
Hm?
Are you truly able to say once more—
that you love Araragi?


Isn't it just as important to have things you hate as it is to have things you love?

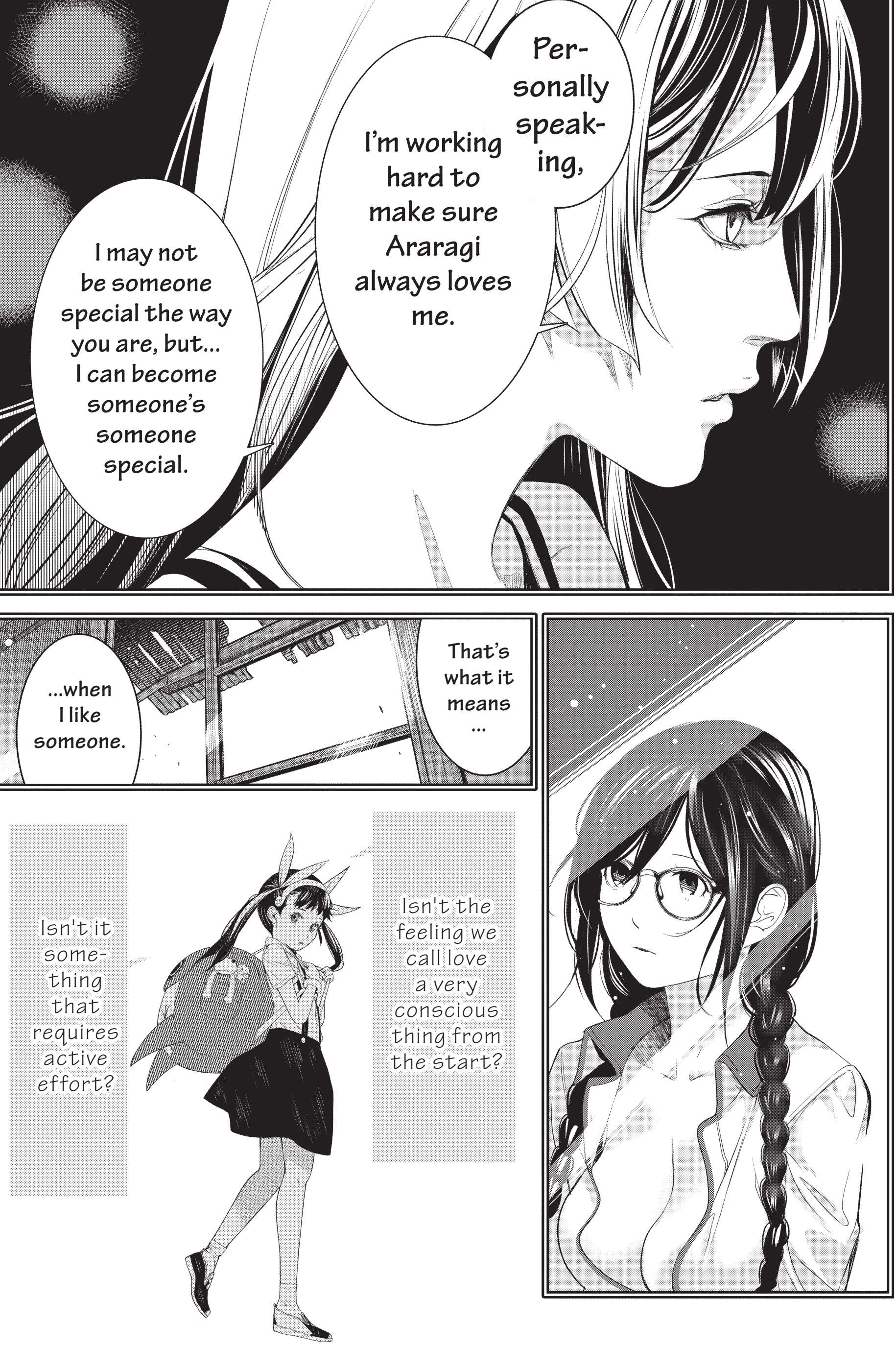
Um...
Hm?
I have a bad habit of smiling whenever I'm unable to comprehend something.
We were—talking about food, weren't we...?
...Miss Hane-kawa.

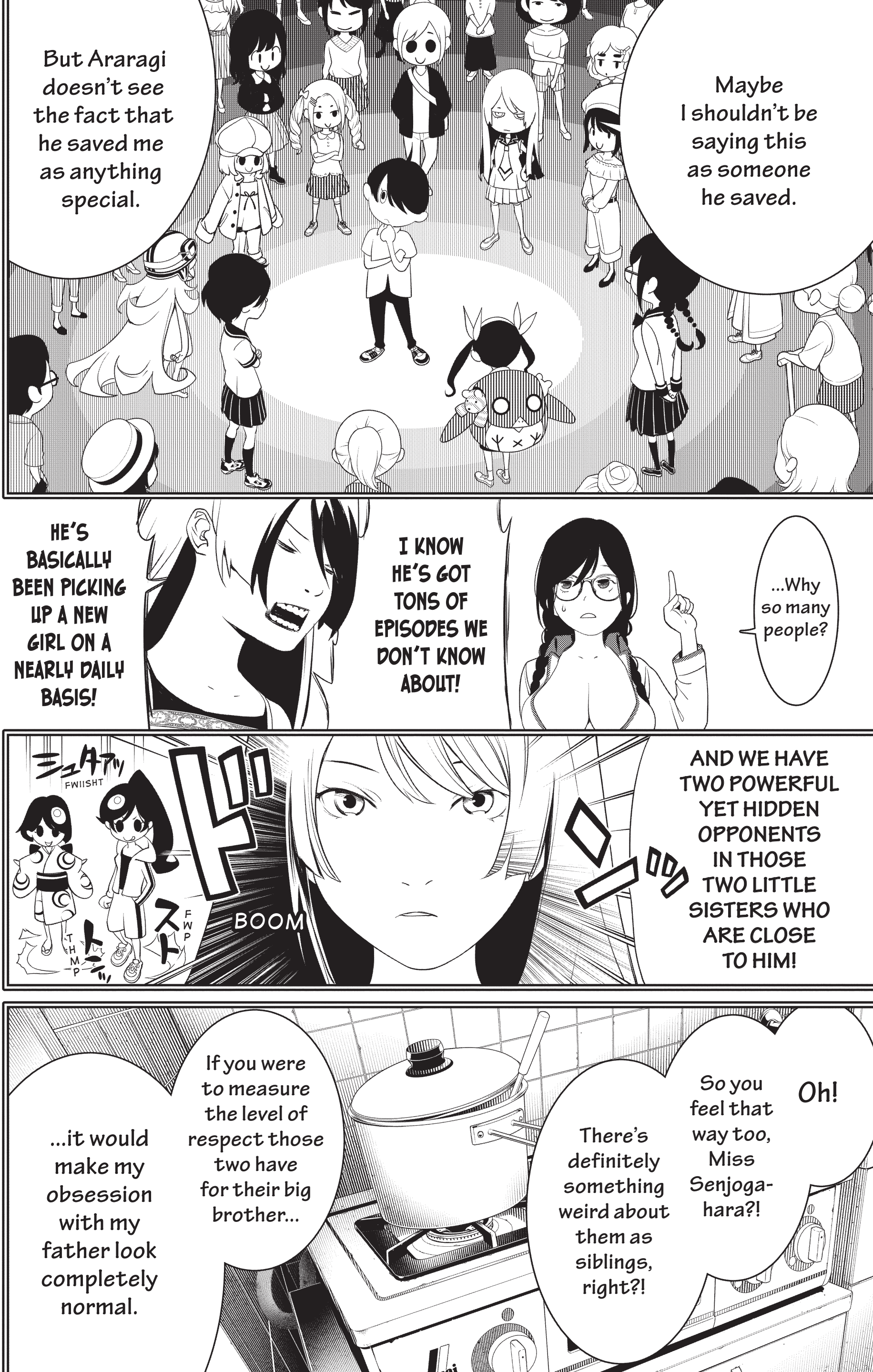
You're like the opposite of a picky eater, aren't you.
KLINK
カチャ
It's not as though you have an impaired sense of taste, either.
You gave your impression on how things tasted when we had tea at a café, or when you ate my lunch at school.
Garekissa
G
COFFEE
Looks tasty♡
Really?
Want some?
Mmm, garlic! Yummy! ♡
It's not as though you're savoring the taste of the ingredients as they are—it might be an exaggeration, but I'd say you'd be *fine with anything.*
Just as long as it fills your stomach, just as long as it provides you with nutrition—that kind of thing, perhaps?
What...? But...
...doesn't food taste good even if it has no flavor?

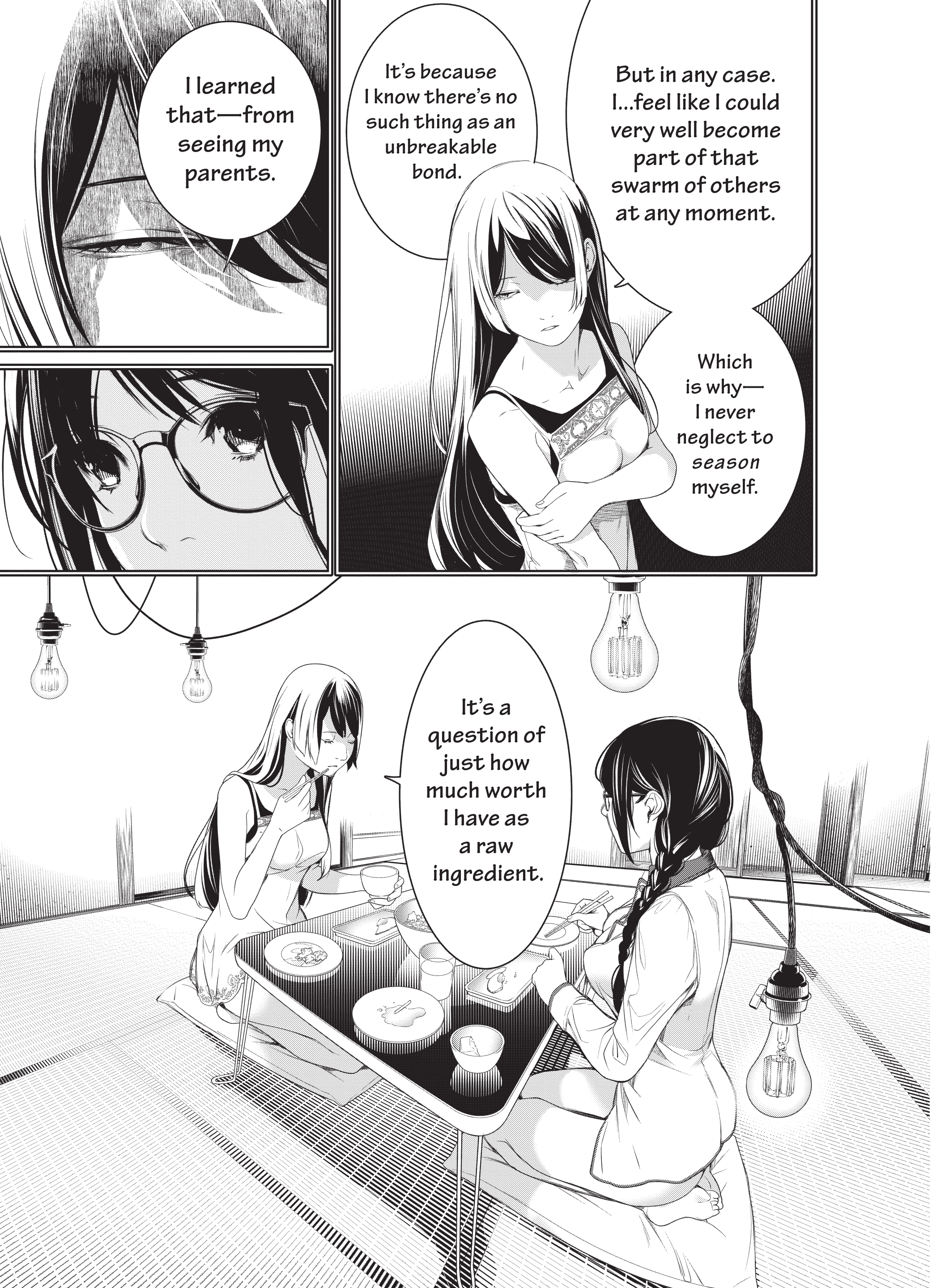
Sorry. If I'm being honest, I don't really understand...
...what you're trying to say to me.
I think salad tastes *just as good* whether there's dressing on it or not.
I can eat fried eggs *all the same,* even if they do have Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, or pepper on them.
Dish Soap
HAND SOAP
It's all the same whether or not it has flavor.
Flavor isn't some-thing I need in the first pla...
...Hm?


This tastes better.
Thank you. Then I'll have it once I'm finished with this water... I wouldn't want it to go to waste.
I felt—
a little uncomfortable with the words I was saying.
Maybe this, too,
was a first for me.
...
Finally— vaguely...
...I started to understand what Miss Senjogahara was saying.

If you like every-thing the same—
if it's all the same to you…
…then what does it mean—for you to like something?
…

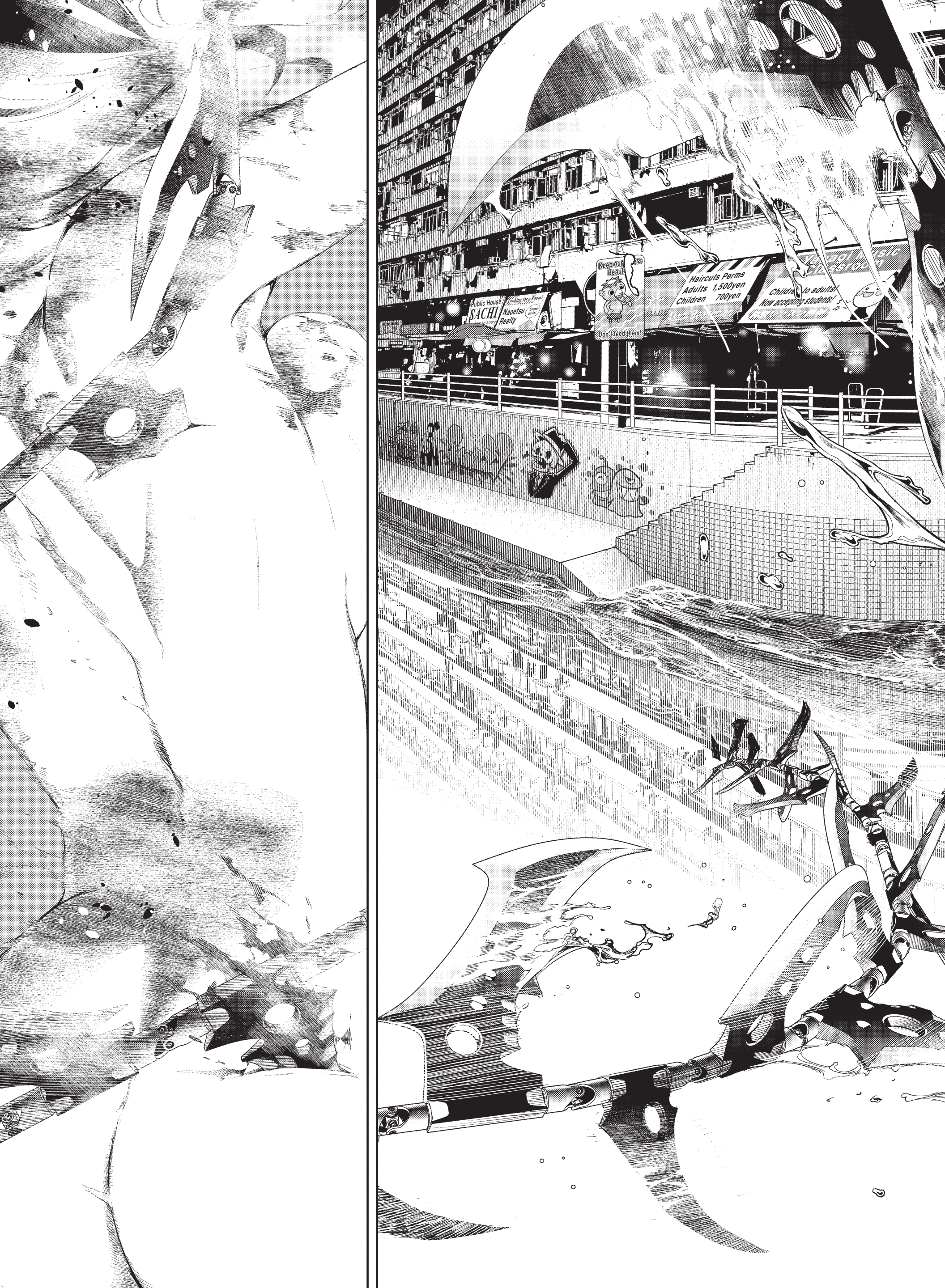

Per-sonally speak-ing,
I'm working hard to make sure Araragi always loves me.
I may not be someone special the way you are, but... I can become someone's someone special.
That's what it means...
...when I like someone.
Isn't the feeling we call love a very conscious thing from the start?
Isn't it some-thing that requires active effort?


Maybe I shouldn't be saying this as someone he saved.
But Araragi doesn't see the fact that he saved me as anything special.
...Why so many people?
I KNOW HE'S GOT TONS OF EPISODES WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT!
HE'S BASICALLY BEEN PICKING UP A NEW GIRL ON A NEARLY DAILY BASIS!
AND WE HAVE TWO POWERFUL YET HIDDEN OPPONENTS IN THOSE TWO LITTLE SISTERS WHO ARE CLOSE TO HIM!
BOOM
FWIISHT
FWP
THMP
Oh!
So you feel that way too, Miss Senjoga-hara?!
There's definitely something weird about them as siblings, right?!
If you were to measure the level of respect those two have for their big brother...
...it would make my obsession with my father look completely normal.



But in any case. I...feel like I could very well become part of that swarm of others at any moment.
It's because I know there's no such thing as an unbreakable bond.
I learned that—from seeing my parents.
Which is why—I never neglect to *season* myself.
It's a question of just how much worth I have as a raw ingredient.

Futaba Osteopathy
Crow Pharmacy
Prescription Drop-off
くしなだ林業
SPLOOSH

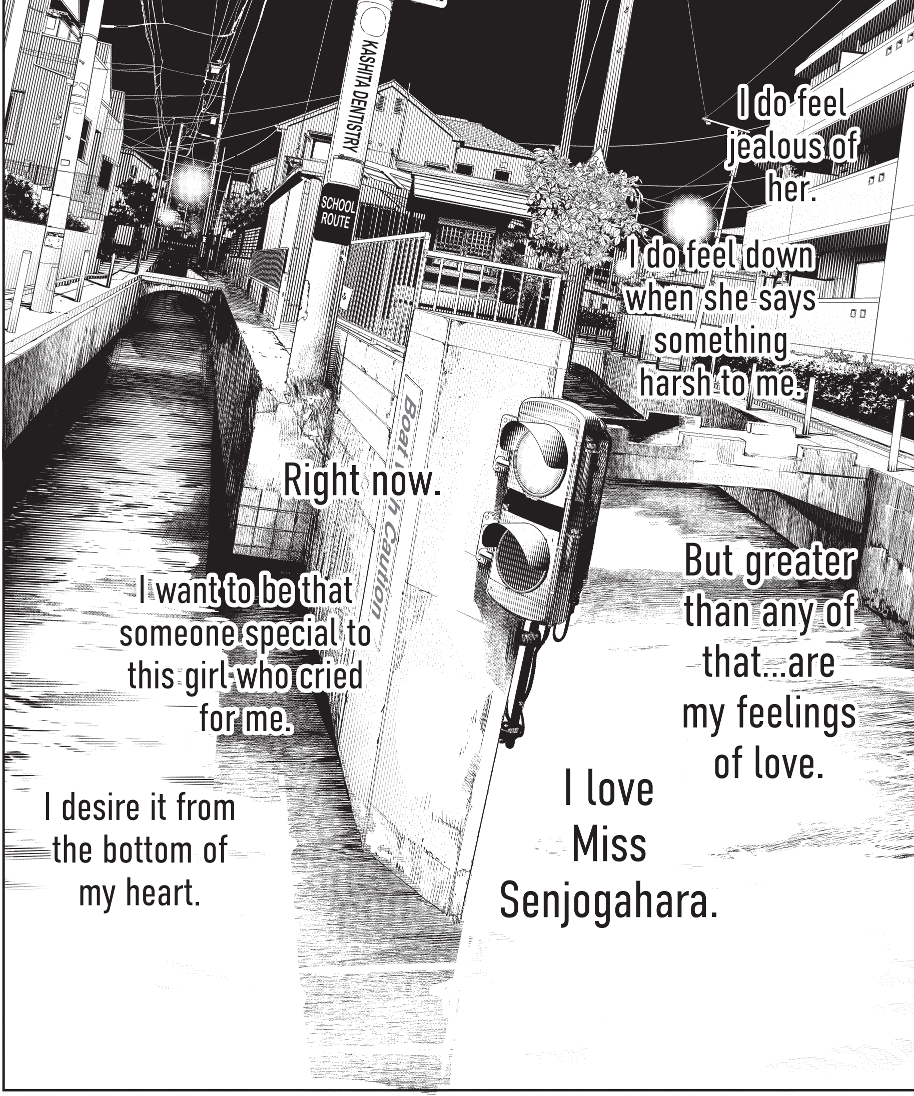

Haircuts Perms
Adults 1,500yen
Children 700yen
Now accepting students!
Don't feed them!
Public House SACHI
Looking for a Room?
Naoetsu Realty
Come on in!

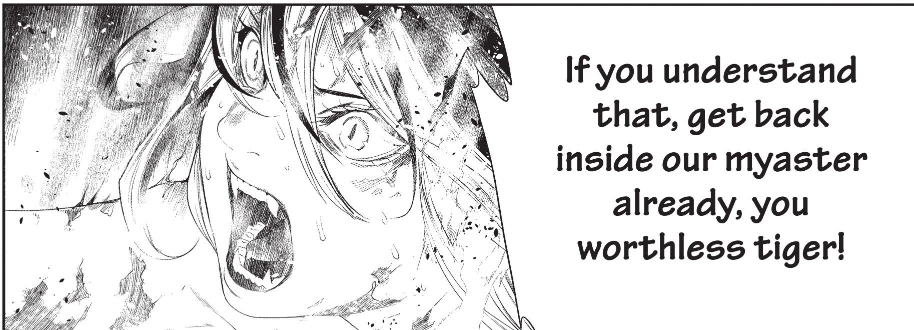
Do you understand, Tyrannical Tiger?!
That's the reason!
FZZZSHH
That's why!
If it's just like Mayoi said—if it takes effort to stay in love,
that must mean you need to work far, far harder to make someone stay in love with you.
SPLOOSH
My past self—must not have done that.

I asked the Tyrannical Tiger.
How foolish.
I asked—my tyrannical past.
I faced myself...
This... ridiculous amount of energy you have.
It's...the power of our myaster's jealousy, isn't it?
I faced me before I met Araragi.
I was able to do it for a whole month—hold it all back.
Tell me nyow, why was that?!

It's because I...
...love Miss Senjogahara just that much.
Isn't it?
I'm sorry.
It's... frus-trating.
...I mean... Well, that's why...
That's exactly why...you're the one who should be—
more... you know... more...

I might be the one who's the real cat, prowling around and snatching him away...
I'm sorry.
I'm not crying because the food doesn't taste good.
I know...
Miss Senjoga-hara said this...
...and ate all the food I made her.


KASHITA DENTISTRY
SCHOOL ROUTE
I do feel jealous of her.
I do feel down when she says something harsh to me.
But greater than any of that...are my feelings of love.
I love Miss Senjogahara.
Right now.
I want to be that someone special to this girl who cried for me.
I desire it from the bottom of my heart.


If you understand that, get back inside our myaster already, you worthless tiger!

Enough.
BAM
RIP
RIP
RIP
VWOOM

PWAP
THWAP
BWAP
GA-KLANG
Ghrrgh!
Hm.
And?
What of it?

Continued in Volume 21

Next Volume Preview
Miss Senjo-gahara! Ruuun!
Hanekawa discovers her heart and her feelings.
Whether it's her repressed emotions or past...
...she gives everything she has to resolve it all.
I guess he would be late ...
BAKEMONOGATARI
21

But the swollen Tyrannical Tiger...
...is just too powerful.
Tsubasa Cat reaches the brink.
COMING APRIL 2024!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 20

Kodansha Digital Edition

BAKEMONOGATARI volume 20 copyright © 2023 NISIOISIN, Oh!great
English translation copyright © 2023 NISIOISIN, Oh!great

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2023 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

ISBN: 9798889333494

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Ko Ransom
Editing: Ajani Oloye
Production: Grace Lu
Pei Ann Yeap
Hiroko Mizuno

kodansha.us

KODANSHA